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Tom M. Evers

British Columbia Federation of Labor

ORGANIZED MAY 1910

OFFICERS 1919-1920

PRESIDENT:

J. Kavanagh, Vancouver, B. C.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Vancouver: P. McDonnell, W. H. Cottrell.

Victoria: J. Taylor.

New Westminster: G. McMurphy.

Prince Rupert: Geo. Casey.

Island: J. Naylor.

Crows Nest Pass: W. B. Phillips.

Interior: T. B. Roberts.

SECRETARY-TREASURER:

A. S. Wells, Vancouver.

List of Delegates to the B. C. Federation of Labor Convention, 1919

Vancouver

Trades and Labor Council—

J. Kavanagh and W. A. Pritchard.

Boilermakers—

J. A. Moors, J. Wood, J. Fraser, T. Grogan.

Bridge and Structural Iron Workers:

Roy Massena.

U. B. Carpenters—

Local 617, R. Hatley, J. R. Campbell; Local 2647, R. Sinclair, A. S. Wells; Local 1777, Arthur Steadman.

Civic Employees—

G. W. MacFarlane.

Electrical Workers—

E. H. Morrison, D. W. McDougall, W. Y. Murdoch, J. P. Scott.

Hotel and Restaurant Employees—

Harry Wood.

B. C. Loggers Union—

T. Mace, A. McKenzie, H. Allman.

Longshoremen—

A. Hill, G. Hodgson.

Machinists—

182, J. H. McVety; 777, G. Douglas, P. McDonnell.

Meat Cutters—

Thos. Anderson.

Marine Firemen and Oilers—

Thos. Scott.

Pattern Makers—

C. Heys.

Plumbers—

J. W. Kirkpatrick.

Painters and Decorators—

H. Grand.

Brotherhood of Railway Carmen—

T. Sommerville.

Street and Electric Railway Employees—

W. H. Cottrell, J. Hubble, A. Lofting, E. G. Kermode.

Shipwrights—

J. W. Wilkinson, J. Nixon.

Shipyards Laborers—

John Sully, Welsh Lee, D. Paterson.

Steam and Operating Engineers—

W. A. Alexander, W. Head, W. Ainger.

General Teamsters and Chauffeurs—

G. Grant, T. J. Haslett, V. R. Midgley, J. F. Poole.

Typographical Union—

W. R. Trotter.

United Warehousemen—

J. Shaw.

Victoria

Trades Council—

G. Laundry.

Blacksmiths—

S. T. Mitchell.

Boilermakers—

A. Chisholm.

U. B. Carpenters, A. S. 2651—

E. W. Ellis, J. Stevenson.

Longshoremen—

Joseph Taylor.

Machinists, 456—

J. Renfrew.

Painters and Decorators—

W. Moulton.

Steam and Operating Engineers—

J. Woodriff.

Shipwrights—

C. H. Gardiner, A. Watchman.

Shipyards Laborers—

Geo. Schofield, H. C. Engleson, J. Bardsley, A. Bell, J. B. Bradstock, W. C. Flewin.

New Westminster

Trades and Labor Council—
W. Yates.

Shipyard Laborers—
Geo. D. McMurphy.

Street and Electric Railway Employees—
F. I. Ray, A. Wallace.

Port Coquitiam

U. B. Carpenters—
Local 2061, J. Bert Powell.

United Mine Workers

Cumberland—
Jos. Naylor.

Fernie—
W. B. Phillips.

Michel—
M. L. McKinnon.

South Wellington—
James Bateman.

Nanaimo Local 2155, U. M. W. A.—
David Rees.

Metalliferous Miners

Hedley—
W. Smith.

Silverton—
T. B. Roberts.

Kimberley—
F. T. Bidden, A. Gill.

Revelstoke

Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employees—
F. W. Daniels.

Powell River

Pulp, Sulphate and Paper Mill Workers—
J. Field, W. E. Thompson.

Prince Rupert

Fish Packers Union—
Geo. Casey.

Trades and Labor Council—
S. D. McDonald, W. H. Montgomery.

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—PROCEEDINGS OF THE— Ninth Annual Convention

THE NINTH ANNUAL CONVENTION of the B. C. Federation of Labor was called to order on Monday morning, by Vice-President R. J. Tallon, of the Calgary Trades and Labor Council. He stated that he welcomed the delegates to the City of Calgary, and while there was no Lieutenant-Governor to welcome them, his offer of the freedom of the city would be just as effective. He stated that while the workers had built large and commodious buildings, that they had turned them over to the Board of Trade and Manufacturers' associations, and while the temple in which they were gathered was not the best building in town, it was the best they had to offer. In handing over the gavel to Vice-President Taylor, he offered the welcome of the wage-earners of Calgary to the delegates. Vice-President Taylor, in assuming the chairmanship, stated that the time would come when the workers would be able to extend to the workers the freedom of the cities in reality.

The Credentials Committee reported, stating that eighty-seven delegates were in attendance. The other committees were then struck.

It was moved by Del. Pritchard, seconded by Del. Nixon, that the officers' reports and the resolutions be allotted to the various committee and taken as read.

The Chairman: You have heard the motion, are you ready for the question?

Del. McVety: I would suggest that the subject matter of these resolutions be announced to the convention.

Del. Rees: It is a quarter to 11, and a number of people have the idea that they have until 2 o'clock to write resolutions. It may be that these resolutions will be duplicated if the members do not know what they are, and since we have an hour or so to spare, I would suggest the secretary read the resolutions now on hand. I would make that a motion, Mr. Chairman.

Del. Montgomery: I would second that motion, Mr. Chairman. (The motion was put and carried unanimously.)

The Secretary: I have here greetings from the Alberta Federation of Labor. I would move that this communication be received and incorporated in the minutes.

Del. Kavanagh: I would second that

motion. (The motion was then put and carried unanimously).

"Calgary, Alta., March 10th, 1919.

"Mr. A. S. Wells,

"Sec. B. C. Federation of Labor,

"Calgary, Alta.

"Dear Sir and Brother:

"Kindly convey to the delegates to your convention fraternal greetings from the Alberta trade unionists.

"We trust that your stay in our Province will be pleasant, and that your deliberations will prove profitable.

"Fraternally yours,

"W. SMITTEN,

"Secretary."

The Chairman: We will now read the resolutions which the secretary has in hand. (The resolutions were then read and referred by the chairman to the respective committees).

Del. Midgley: I just want to make a motion. The general procedure in the past has been to adopt the resolutions as they are presented to us by the resolutions committee, and usually they are taken in numerical order without taking into consideration their importance, and I would move that the reso-

lutions committee introduce these resolutions according to their importance.

Del. Sinclair: I would second that motion, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: You have heard the motion, are you ready for the question?

The Secretary: The resolutions are not numbered, and will be handed to the resolutions committee as they are, and they can bring them in as they see fit.

The Chairman: Is that satisfactory to the mover and seconder of the motion?

Del. Midgley: It is to me.

The Chairman: That will be satisfactory, then.

The Secretary, in dealing with a six-hour day resolution said: I might say, Mr. Chairman, in addition to this, the carpenters of Vancouver, through their District Council, held a special meeting to decide what action they would take in regard to wages and so forth, and they decided instead of asking for an increase in wage, they would try to institute the six-hour day on the 1st of May. The carpenters were instructed at that meeting to refer this matter to the B. C. Federation of Labor, which they did. In order to let the affiliated locals have some knowledge of what was going to be brought before the convention. I circularized the unions throughout the Province asking them to let us know whether they were prepared to back up any attempt which would be made by organized labor, and I told them that naturally any action which would be taken to institute a six-hour day would have to be settled by the affiliated membership through a referendum, and I asked them if they would be willing to go ahead with that, and I had a large number of replies from the different organizations. I would suggest that these be handed over to the resolutions committee, so that they will understand how many locals of the Province are in favor of having a six-hour day.

The Chairman: This suggestion will be carried out if there is no objection. Hearing none, the secretary will hand these replies to the resolutions committee.

Del. Pritchard: Mr. Chairman, I have another resolution which I would like to introduce at this moment, if it is in order.

The Chairman: I think it would be.

Del. Pritchard: I will give the resolu-

tion to the convention. The resolution is as follows:

"Whereas, great and drastic changes have taken place in the industrial world, and whereas, in the past, the policy of the British Columbia Federation of Labor (in sending its executive committee to Victoria pleading for the passage of legislation which is never passed, and would be futile if it were), is now obsolete, if it ever were useful;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that this convention lay down as its future policy the building up or organizations of workers on industrial lines for the purpose of enforcing, by virtue of their industrial strength, such demands as such organizations may at any time consider necessary for their continued maintenance and well being, and shall not be, as heretofore, for the purpose of attempting to persuade legislative assemblies to amend, add or take from existing statutes allegedly called labor laws,

"And be it further resolved, that the committee on constitution and law be instructed to amend the constitution of the British Columbia Federation of Labor in accordance with the policy herein laid down."

The Chairman: You can file your resolution. Have you it in duplicate?

Del. Pritchard: I have not at present. I recognize the necessity of drawing it up in duplicate, but at the same time I recognize the further necessity of having the question debated now, as it will instruct the committee on Constitutional Law as to the course which it should follow.

Del. Trotter: Mr. Chairman, I move that the convention now assembled take this question up and decide on the matter suggested by the mover's motion.

(The motion of Del. Trotter's was seconded).

The Chairman: You have heard the motion. Are you ready for the question?

(The motion was then put and carried unanimously).

Del. Rees: I have attended these conventions for a good many years, and I suppose I shall soon be one of those fossilized ginks. However, I would think the convention could deal with this question far better this afternoon if our resolutions committee would take this with the other resolutions, and take the matter up in committee first. There is nothing to prevent them

from taking this resolution up first, and the resolutions committee might, therefore, bring in their reports this afternoon on this resolution. I have listened carefully to the resolution and if, as I understand it, the resolution is carried by this convention, then you abolish the B. C. Federation of Labor. It seems to me the proper place for the resolution is before the resolutions committee. They will deal with it in the afternoon and bring some report back to this meeting.

Del. Pritchard: Mr. Chairman, Bro. Rees is probably laboring under a wrong conception of the resolution. It would not, in my mind, abolish the B. C. Federation of Labor, but it would reconstruct it. If the B. C. Federation of Labor has performed any useful function, we will let it go at that, but these changed conditions which are now before us, demand a change in the form of organization which we have. We would, therefore, to my mind, not be abolishing the B. C. Federation of Labor, but we would be changing it in accordance with our dead past.

A delegate: I would be distinctly opposed to picking out any one resolution whether it is on constitutional law or some other subject, out of the thirty-eight resolutions which have now been submitted to this convention, and passing it as soon as we have assembled without proper consideration. Why should this resolution not be submitted to its proper committee with all other resolutions, and let them report according to the proper procedure? Then this convention will be in a pretty fair mood to consider it. I would move an amendment that this resolution should be submitted to the committee on Constitutional Law, and let them bring back a report. If any one resolution is to be taken from these thirty-five or more resolutions, and hurriedly passed through this convention, then we might proceed to discuss any other resolution which any delegate might consider of importance enough to bring right up before us at once before this meeting. (The amendment was seconded.)

Del. Midgley: Mr. Chairman, a resolution would be of no value by being referred to the committee on Constitutional Law, unless the convention gave its views on it. It winds up by instructing the Constitutional Law Committee to amend the Constitution according to this policy which is suggested, and the committee could not report

until the convention has given them their wishes and instructed them what to do in the matter. It is true, it is departing somewhat from the past procedure to bring a resolution forward without consideration by a committee, but this resolution is different from the average resolutions. It not only affects the committee on Constitutional Law, but it also affects the committee on resolutions, and I think it must be dealt with at the very start of the convention, and the policy of the convention set forth.

The Secretary: The committee on Constitutional Law numbers fifteen, and the representatives on that committee are chosen from all parts of the Province, particularly with the point in view of giving the largest number possible of the affiliated members representation on that committee. Now, we can discuss this thing at this stage of the game if we wish, but if the different fifteen representatives of the largest unions in the Province discuss that proposition in the committee on Constitutional Law first, then I am convinced that they will be able to come back to this convention with a whole lot more understanding of it than they would have if it is dealt with right here at this moment. Those fifteen members will know pretty well where the larger membership which they represent stands. And in view of the fact that this thing has to be submitted to a referendum vote, after its adoption, I feel it might be the wiser policy to refer it to the committees first, and let them discuss it and then bring it back to this convention.

Del. Naylor: I think it most essential that this business should come before the convention very early for this reason: We have heard these resolutions read this morning, and if that policy is adopted to change a certain portion of the Constitutional Laws of the B. C. Federation of Labor, it will do away with a whole lot of these resolutions which have been read this morning. It was said here this morning, that we wanted to finish in three days. There have been other conventions which have taken us six days to finish. And now in regard to this, it seems to me it is most essential if we are going to consider this policy at all, we should consider it early in the convention, and for that reason and that reason alone. If it is accepted, it will do away with a large number of these

other resolutions, which have been read this morning. It will shorten the time or the proceedings of the convention, and do away with a lot of unnecessary debate on the floor of the convention. I am in favor of considering it this morning.

Del. Kavanagh: The B. C. Federation of Labor is organized for the purpose of voicing the sentiments of its members. A number of the resolutions which have been introduced this morning are dealing with a necessary change in the construction of the trade unions. If you change them, then the central organization must necessarily change itself in conjunction therewith. If an industrial organization is necessary in order that the worker may force upon his employer changes in his condition, then it seems to me the same force might be used to change restrictive measures. This will not break down the B. C. Federation of Labor, as I see it, but it will change it for the better. It will make up in reality a great federation of labor instead of at the present time an organization made up of the joining together of several smaller units. Our organization is in the habit of sending representatives to Victoria to talk to the ministers there for a half an hour or so, and while they are talking, half of those ministers are asleep and at the end, they all promise to take into consideration what our representatives have said, and then go away and forget all about it. In 1913 an attempt was made to change this federation, and it did not succeed at that time, because the conditions were not making it necessary then. Today we are living in a time when great changes are taking place, and every member should remember that whatever they have gotten from the members of parliament or from their individual employers, has been gotten by virtue of their industrial strength and, therefore, that being the case, the only hope we have for any relief, anything that will tend to improve the condition of our workers, is by virtue of our industrial strength being withheld. This idea of going along in the old system and resolving where no resolution can be obtained, and with putting on the statute book statutes which are never adopted, or if they are adopted, are no good anyway. That day has gone. True organization is the only way where the worker has any power. Consequently in view of

the fact that resolutions have been introduced asking for changes to be made in our organization which is the only organization which can function politically or otherwise. I say, therefore, I am in favor of the resolution, because it will put an end to all the waste of time, taking men whom you have elected to do something for you, and it will bring to the workers the idea of how they can get these results without doing that begging.

Del. Harris Allman: Mr. Chairman, in speaking in favor of the resolution, I might state that to me it is the only thing which should be taken up at the present time, this very moment, and discussed and threshed out and practically adopted for the simple reason, that if we do not adopt it, and then we go to work and take these resolutions which have been read out this morning, and the B. C. Federation of Labor, acting as it has in the past, takes these to honest John or some more of those fellows in British Columbia, and asks them to put them on the statue books, it will be no use whatever. By adopting this resolution, we are practically laying the foundation of an industrial organization which we are all after at the present time, and which is the only form of organization which can get the workers anything they go after.

A Delegate: I am not prepared to speak against the resolution. I think I would be in favor of it when it comes before the convention, but unfortunately I have not been able to attend the convention which favored it before, and thereby gain some idea of its purport. If it has any merit to it whatever, it will not depreciate that merit if it is sent to the committee on law, and brought back afterwards to us. I have only heard the resolution read once, and I cannot understand the full importance of it, and I would like to hear it discussed by a committee's report before I vote either for it or against it.

A Delegate: I rise to support the motion and oppose the amendment. I consider myself that this resolution is a vital one, and I also think that this meeting here is capable of deciding as to whether they are in favor of that change of policy or not. We have a great number of resolutions on which the resolution committee, I have no doubt, will act in the best interests of all, according to the past procedure.

Now, I think a majority of the delegates here are satisfied that the procedure which has been followed in the past of going to these men in the legislature and bowing down to them has been a lot of foolishness but we have had to learn it by experience, and I think we have learnt it fully and I think this is the place now to discuss this matter, decide right away on what policy you are going to adopt and upon what policy you are going to conduct your business. Then the resolutions committee or the committee on law will have something to be guided by. They will have definite instructions and I maintain that the place now to discuss this matter and to thresh it out is right here, and it will save a great deal of time of this convention if it is done now. Therefore, I am in favor of the resolution being dealt with here, and disposed of and I also favor the resolution because we will decide here and now whether we are in favor of a change of policy of the B. C. Federation of Labor.

Del. Trotter: The delegates are debating the merits of the resolution when I understand the motion before the house is only whether it shall be referred or not. While I made the motion that the matter be considered, now I think the resolution should properly be referred to the committee on Constitutional Law, because that committee is charged with the duty of ascertaining in detail just exactly what changes are warranted, and whether they believe that they are in accordance with the best object of organized labor. Now, the resolution is one which carries with it a great number of changes. It carries with it an admission on the part of those who have been asking us to organize along political lines for many years past, that that effort was not good and that it is not a good policy any more and they are asking us now to change.

A Delegate: I rise to a point of order, Mr. Chairman. The speaker is referring to those who have been organizing politically.

The Chairman: I understand the speaker is using general phraseology, and is not mentioning any particular person. Proceed.

Del. Trotter: I say, Mr. Chairman, it carries with it an entire reversal of policy. We have been adopting a policy of industrial action, so far as we could, and political effort so far as we

could, securing what advantages we could by industrial effort, or political effort or legislative effort, or any other manner in which that could be accomplished. This resolution counsels an adoption of one policy and the prohibition of any other policy no matter how the situation may look for the time being, and whether profitable action could be gotten along the other line. For that reason, as I see it, it contemplates a complete overturn of everything which has been advocated before and which has been carried out. I think the resolution should be turned over to the resolutions committee or to the committee on Constitutional Law, where the delegates could be given an opportunity of not five minutes, but all night, if necessary, to decide where the different organizations stand, and as I understand from the secretary's remarks the committee is a very large one and represents a great many different sections of our membership in different sections of a very large province and by doing that the committee will be able to tell us some of the advantages and some of the disadvantages of the results of the resolution passing which is a matter which we can hardly go into here on the floor or the convention now. For that reason I am prepared to refer it even if I am not now prepared to say whether I am in favor of it or not, but I suggest this so that the delegates will have an opportunity of looking into its merits.

A Delegate—Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that the mover and seconder of that committee be added to the committee on constitutional law.

A Delegate: I would like to make a motion. Mr. Chairman, in amendment, that this resolution be referred to the committee, and that the committee be instructed to act upon it first, and have it brought back early to this convention for discussion.

The Chairman: I do not see that any motion such as that is necessary, as it has already been agreed upon that the resolution committee shall have the right to bring before the convention the resolution in the order of importance in which they see them. If the matter is referred to the committee, they will have that power.

A Delegate: The reason I offered that motion was to prevent all this unnecessary discussion, and to instruct

the committee definitely to bring in that report first.

A Delegate: Mr. Chairman, I would call for the previous question.

The Chairman: The question now before the house is whether we shall close the debate on the question.

The Chairman: All those in favor of closing the debate on the question before the house raise your hands and the secretary will count.

(Ayes, 42; against, 32. The motion was declared carried by the chairman.)

The Chairman: The motion to close the debate having now been carried, the question now before the house is the motion that we proceed to immediately consider the resolution introduced by Del. Midgley, and the amendment to that motion. The amendment is to the effect that the resolution shall be referred to the resolutions committee, the amendment will be voted on first. I rule that the amendment to the amendment was not in order, although I am not sure whether it was seconded. You will vote on the amendment first.

(The amendment was then put to vote and defeated.)

We will now vote on the motion to immediately consider the matter. The amendment having been defeated, practically carries with it the wish of the meeting on this motion. However, we will vote on it.

Del. Midgley: Mr. Chairman, I will now move the adoption of the resolution.

Del. Pritchard: I will second that motion, Mr. Chairman.

A Delegate: Will the secretary read the resolution again.

The resolution was then re-read by the secretary.

The Chairman: You have heard the motion moved by Del. Midgley, and seconded by Del. Pritchard, for the adoption of the resolution. The matter is now open for discussion.

Del. Pritchard: As mover of that motion, I want to state my views, Mr. Chairman, with respect to it. In introducing this resolution, I feel that the changed conditions now demand changes in the statutes and in the form of organization, which the workers shall adopt. In the past, I have advocated different policies, and it may be construed by those who are willing to stay with the fleshpots of Egypt, that this is an effort on the part of certain people who in times past followed and advocated certain policies to now change their attitude, but I am willing

to admit that I am a member of a school who are prepared to amend their thoughts if they feel it is necessary. In no other way can the working class organization be made the function which we all desire it to be except by readjusting not only its idea, but its machinery to the growing needs of that working class. There is nothing to be gained by attempting to lash dead horses, by attempting to stay with obsolete forms of organization, when it is proved that those forms of organization, if they have been useful, have long since outlived their usefulness, and looking at this thing from the standpoint of organized workers, we must admit that it has now reached a time for a change. And I agree with our brother, who has just spoken to us today, that although we are a legislative body, we have not legislative powers. My contention is this, Mr. Chairman, that the only time the workers can effect any resolutions that are of value, is the time when they make themselves a fort in that legislative body. In other words, the only time they can enforce their laws through the legislature is when they are masters of the legislative forces themselves, and until such a time arises, it is necessary, being interested in the needs of the laboring class, and the conditions of our work, being compelled to meet our masters from time to time as to the contents of that pay envelope, as to the conditions from which profits will be extracted from our hides and faculties, I say it is necessary for us to re-establish our organization to deal with these questions, and the more perfect we make that organization, the more immediate good can we accomplish. Now it has been proven and I am willing to confess to this extent at least, my change that changes have occurred not only in the policies of some of us here, but changes have occurred in the policies of trade unionism the world over. The trades and labor movement throughout the entire world, Mr. Chairman, is now divided in two camps, it is divided into two camps which line up about as follows: Those who are willing to use any weapon, whatever it is, if so by the use of that weapon we will get what we want. We are more interested in getting what we want than we are in building up some organization that we do not know will be able to get us those things and, therefore, I think the first thing to consider is this: What do we want? Study that

problem, size it up properly and decide on those things which we now require to improve our conditions of living. That being the case, the next thing is then: How shall we obtain what we want? Our immediate problems, we are interested in them because we can live through the medium of the pay envelope, and our problem is then: How can we extend that pay envelope? How can we so effect an organization that will restrict the encroachment of the master class? Those are the questions. There are those who at all times would take the position of the man who works himself as against those who are at all times willing to adopt the condition of the professional politician in the ranks of the working man. The day of that kind of organization, Mr. Chairman, is gone and if we fail to realize it, if we stand with these obsolete forms of organization we will, therefore, fail. We shall be pushed into oblivion along with those organizations and take with us the other obsolete organizations headed by Sam Gompers and others of his kind.

Over in the old country the movement has sprung up from the younger element, it is true. Today is the day of young men, but the movement all the same has sprung up irrespective of the desires of the labor officials, and that movement is going to go ahead. It does no longer listen to the teachings of Ben Tillett and Peter Wright, who still stay with their teachings of dead days. They say we have been perfectly willing to allow you to stay along with those days, but we intend to go ahead, and we will go ahead, and they say when the time comes you, along with the rest of a rotten machinery, which is today hampering the work of the working man, will be passed in the dump pile. Now, in adopting this resolution at this stage of the game, we not only set out a new policy of this Federation of Labor in keeping with new conditions, but at the same time we adopt a policy which, as Delegate Naylor pointed out, will do away with these other resolutions on the table, or many of them. I submit we will adopt a policy which will consolidate those resolutions. Many of those resolutions are duplicates of one another. Many of the resolutions are not altogether accurately expressed. Resolutions dealing with the adoption of the six-hour day, a better organization of the workers in the various industries

and many other resolutions. These resolutions will not be done away with, but they will be consolidated. They will be consolidated and put in a better shape so that we can deal with them. Mr. Chairman, I have nothing further to say in support of this resolution. If at any time in the past I have made utterances which are not in keeping with the utterances which I have just now made in support of this resolution, I have just this to say that I am a little older today than I was then. (Applause).

The Secretary: It is not exactly a new departure to try and bring our industrial strength to bear on the question of legislative demands. I have a recollection of some years ago when this B. C. Federation of Labor took a referendum vote as to whether a general strike should be called to enforce certain things in connection with the mine workers of Vancouver Island. Later again when the position of the workers was threatened more than ever before in its history, the B. C. Federation of Labor took another referendum vote on the question of calling a general strike as a protest against the establishment of military conscription of the workers of this country. The workers as a whole, however, did not respond to these referendums. Either they were indifferent or they did not recognize the importance of the proposition which was placed before them. I believe, though, Mr. Chairman, at this stage of the game, that there is a possibility of us getting into the position where we can use our industrial strength to back up our legislative demands. Let me point out to you that while we can depreciate all we will the efforts which have been made by the Federation during the past few years to secure legislation on behalf of our people, that out of the last session of the House we did not secure some legislation of very great interest to the workers of this Province, which you will find out when the reports are placed in your hands. I am convinced that the miners will be considerably benefited by some of the resolutions which were passed at the last session of the House. Some of the disadvantages under which they worked and which threatened their very lives and health, will be removed. Realize that and realize also that if we have more strength we might get more resolutions passed, realizing that it will be beneficial to

have an industrial organization and also realizing that no matter what this convention proffers, that the amendment to the constitution of this organization must go before the membership of the Federation. The affiliated membership and in the last analysis, the members are the people, who only can amend the constitution, and not this convention, and recognizing the educational factor, if you might put it in that way, of putting a referendum to our membership along these lines, I can see no harm in the adoption of the proposed resolution, and then let it go before our affiliated members. There is no doubt about it, men, that we have got to have an industrial organization different to what we have not now. We have got to have an organization whereby, when the time comes, when we have reached that point where we are going to take over and operate the wheels of industry, which time we have talked about so long, I say when that time comes, we need an organization which will be of use to us. At that time we will have to have our industrial organization similar to that which has proven of such a benefit in Russia, and which is also taking effect in England and throughout the British Isles. We must recognize that the industrial weapon must be more and more used and, therefore, considering that a vote has to be taken; there is no harm, it seems to me, in submitting it to the members in that way.

The Chairman: The hour of adjournment has now arrived.

It was moved and seconded that the session be extended until a vote was taken. The motion was put and carried unanimously.

Del. Wilkinson: I would suggest that if there is any other person who wishes to speak further on this question, that he now move the adjournment of the debate, and it will give him an opportunity of speaking first upon it when we meet again this afternoon. It may be if you try to rush this question to a vote now, that some delegates may come back after lunch with an idea that he would like to have spoken on it and if this course is followed, this will give everybody an opportunity of speaking on the merits of the resolution, and while it is promoting a great deal of general discussion, such a course, I think, would result in more satisfaction if the resolution passes. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, if any

other delegate wishes to speak on this question, that he move the adjournment of the debate now, and then it will come on at the proper time.

The Chairman: The motion before the house is that we extend the time until we finish the debate. It will be a two-thirds vote to carry this motion.

Del. Kavanagh: Rather than put the meeting to the necessity of putting the vote, I would move the adjournment of the debate.

Del. Pritchard: I would second the motion.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

The meeting then adjourned at 12 p.m. to meet again at 2 p.m.

Afternoon Session

The Chairman: In answer to the question that was asked this morning, the number of delegates seated is 87. The order of business will be the resumption of the debate on the resolution. The motion before the house is the adoption of the resolution as presented and it is open for discussion.

Del. Kavanagh: In the remarks of the last speaker on this question, in pointing out the fact that certain useful work had been done in the past years by the legislative method, and further pointing out that this mode of procedure might be necessary to the transition period in my understanding of the developments of this system and its transition, and in view of what happened in the past few years, I find that the transition period of capitalism to the co-operative commonwealth only takes place under the dictatorship of the proletariat, and until that time there can be no transition period in the development from capitalism to a different order of society. It is true and we must realize so immediately that in dealing with this, we must take the example of what happened to the workers of other countries. No doubt this situation has not so far arisen in this country at the present time, but we must take note of this fact that the rise of the Soviet to power in Russia, which is the Russian Workmen's Council, was effected by their sitting side by side with the political organization of that country and dictating to their masters what they had decided to demand in the form of remedial legislation for the welfare of the worker, and if we come nearer home, we will find this: That following the last Trades and Labor

Congress of Canada in this country, at which certain resolutions were put forward, the movers were denied access to the floor by the majority of that Congress, and you will note that the government immediately, upon the adjournment of that Congress, put into effect certain restrictive methods against the workers which had not been done prior to that time, and they taken their cue from the sentiments expressed by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, in spite of the fact that the entire western section represented at that Congress had desired that those questions should be threshed out on the floor, and we must notice that all the federated bodies of these trades councils of labor serve the purpose of the rulers at the present time by pointing out to what extent they can repress the worker, and know to what extent they can attain their ends. Secondly, I contend it is no longer any use our sending one or two individuals to a parliament when they can not function, to a place that is nothing more or less an assembly of people shooting off hot air, and passing laws in the interest of property. On the contrary, the questions we have to discuss are questions which vitally concern our existence, and we should discuss them in our own council, and enforce them as well as we can by the power of our organization; because we must understand that parliament cannot function when workers do not work, and while these things are apparently in the process. Still it is the process we are going through, the process of education, and until we get sufficient of the workers in that frame of mind where they are prepared to take over the machinery of production for themselves, then we must gain what concession we can by the use of that same power in industry by the pressure in the only place where it is effective, and that is upon those whom parliament represents. True, this change is a change from policies which have been enunciated in the past. It is also true that everything is in process of constant change and policies change with the other things, and we have now come to this position after years of working, that something might be done and anything we can obtain is only obtained by the pressure we bring to bear from the outside by force of industrial organizations, which are in existence and that because of this fact, and be-

cause of the fact that the trend of Labor at this time is to limit the function of its organization, individually, and to form one organization then, in my opinion, this Federation should reflect and get thoroughly up in line with the membership, and reflect the ideas which have been expressed through their various organizations as represented by the resolution presented on this floor.

Del. W. H. Cottrell: I am in support of the motion. There is no question about it, that the workers at this convention are, in the main, infused with the idea that something definite is going to arise from this convention. Most of the organizations would not have sent in delegates at all if they had not some hope of a change in the policy of this convention. They are absolutely satisfied that as it has functioned in the past, it has been a dead issue. If one wants any further evidence of that it is right in the officers' report. The B. C. Federation met in January last, and the executive presented different proposals on almost every subject, requesting certain legislations from the powers that be. They had an exceptionally cordial reception. Now, in September this reply was received, nine months practically after the last B. C. Federation met, they received this reply:

"A. S. Wells, Esq.,
Secretary-treasurer of
The B. C. Federation of Labor,
Vancouver, B. C.

"Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst. Further in reference to the legislative programme laid before the executive in March of this year. In reply I may advise you that I have had a careful search made of our files, and I find that the memorandum in question was sent to the legislative committee of the House, from which it was not returned to this or any department. Your memorandum, therefore, is amongst the files of the committee, and not available to me until the House meets. Under the circumstances, I shall be greatly obliged if you will favor me with a copy of this minute, which I may assure you, upon receipt thereof, will have the careful consideration of the government following which you will be advised as to any decision that may be reached.

"Regretting the necessity of imposing this extra work upon you, but

believing you will understand the situation, I am, your truly,

(Signed) "JOHN OLIVER."

Nine months after the convention had met, and six months after they presented these proposals to the government, they received this intimation, which practically meant that all these beautiful resolutions had been deposited in the waste paper basket, and they did not even have a copy of it.

Del. J. A. Moore: Speaking in favor of the motion, I may say that after attending the B. C. Federation of Labor, and having some knowledge of the workings of the Federation, and of its attested legislation, and as the workers well know, we have never gained anything by supplications, and also following the United States of America Boilermakers organization, who were attempting, in a supplicatory manner, by interviewing various powers that be, we find ourselves in a worse position at the present time than ever. It didn't gain anything and our organizations have recognized the fact that we must have a change. Now, to my mind, this change should be appropriated at the present moment. As a rule, we come here with the idea of changing something, but unfortunately in the past we never have accomplished that. I think the occasion has arrived for decided action, and that is changing the attitude of the B. C. Federation of Labor, by some form of industrial unionism whereby we can get somewhere.

Del. J. B. Bradstock: I won't be very long in my discussion, but I would like to say at the outset that I feel on this occasion that I represent the disinherited of the disinherited. You can put whatever construction you like on it: it is not very grammatical. I will try and explain as I go along. I rise to support the motion from the very fact and as has already been stated here by the brothers who welcomed us to the city of Calgary, it is the first convention of Labor that I ever attended in my life, and I am very pleased personally that it is so, for various obvious reasons. To my mind, this seems to be the first convention that I have any knowledge of, of the Federation of B. C. that has attempted to do something in accord with the wishes of the rank and file of the Federation. I might say that I want to particularly lay emphasis on the fact that there are a certain percentage of workers occupied in the shipbuilding industry in the city of

Victoria, and they, anyway, wish to attack the legislative inaction in the future that have taken into consideration the censorship, orders-in-council, and all that other sort of political junk which is not going to benefit them in the least, and we want a change whether we retain the old order of things or not, and especially if we retain the old form of organization. I refer in particular to a large number of workers known as conscientious objectors to military service. As we know, a great number of these men, who had conscientious objections, and their conscientious objections were in line with my own conscientious objections under the present scheme of things, a good number of them were found taking to the hills and woods, anywhere, in fact, where it was possible to escape this very beneficial—

The Chairman: The chair must request you to confine your remarks to the resolution. I do not wish to be arbitrary or anything of that kind, but you realize the importance of delegates confining themselves to the question before the house, except where they make reference in order to support their statement, and as chairman, I hardly think your reference to conscientious objectors can be classed in that category.

Del. Bradstock Continued: I may seem somewhat rather lengthy, seeing I am not a public speaker, and I think I am speaking to this resolution. This resolution, so far as I can see, it affects these men who are now, some of them, in the organization that I represent. They are members, and I feel that I am expressing their views on this question of reconstruction of the B. C. Federation of Labor, and I am speaking of the political aspect of this thing, as it affects these men. We know that the powers that be have got in consideration different orders-in-council advocating the taking away of the franchise of these men. Now, these men, if that franchise is taken away from them, will not have any voice in saying as to which of the particular political parties, Liberal and Conservative, will go to the House to pass laws concerning them, and I think that is in line with this resolution. Of course, I am quite willing to abide by the decision of the chairman, if I am out of order. I feel it covers these men, and I know there are a large number of these men who think they are being disenfranchised.

and cannot have a vote for some of these fellows, even if they wish to. Suppose, for instance, a member of the Federated Labor Party were to put up in the city of Victoria for the Legislature in Victoria. These men might wish to vote for him, but according to the order-in-council, that might be passed in Ottawa, disenfranchising them for their attitude in the late war, they would be disenfranchised whether they wanted it or not. Their only redress, Mr. Chairman, would come under this resolution. They might be able to bring their forces to bear through this resolution. They certainly could not do it along political lines, because the franchise will have been taken away from them, and it is for these men and the interests of these men I rise to support that motion.

Del. George Casey: I represent the expenditure of \$300.

The Chairman: Alright, Del. Casey will proceed to justify it.

Del. Casey, proceeding: On the part of 65 fish packers, which will amount to about \$50 per man, who are seeking a reversal in the working status of the working classes of this Province, and the importance of this resolution, as I see it, is absolutely in accord with the desires of the line of action by the class I represent. Can the secretary give us any figures along these lines? In sending out referendums, I am asking this question, because if this resolution is passed, it will have to be submitted to a referendum, what number of the affiliated membership votes as a rule on questions that are sent out for referendum?

The Secretary: I think I can answer that. I might say that the referendums for the general strike on opposition to conscription was about 25 or 30 per cent., that is, as near as I can give it. I want to say this: There was a marked increase in the percentage of votes on the referendum for the holding of the Western conference, that was not taken till a later date, and it was not a referendum on a general strike or anything like that, but it showed, at any rate, that the workers were looking to the Western conference for something to be done there that would lead them some place, and I took it, at the time, that it was a marked indication of the advance in the position taken by the rank and file as compared with that previously taken on referendums, because they had taken a

good deal more notice of it, and voted more strongly on it than any other referendum. On the island strike we had organizers out and the referendum vote was only about 30 per cent. of the membership, and on conscription about the same thing.

Del. A. McKenzie (of the Loggers Union): I may say that the organization which I represent, would back up this motion in all its aspects. As most of you know, the nature of our occupation is casual, more or less, and so far as giving political expression to our wants, we are at a disadvantage on account of the electoral laws, and so forth, and we would like to see the Federation of Labor made into an organization that would organize all the workers of this Province into an organization where they could be united for common action in anything that should affect them as a whole, and I think that nothing better could be accomplished by this convention than if they have that end in view. The time has arrived, as several delegates have mentioned, for Labor not only to pass resolutions, but to put them in action, for to educate the rank and file of the organization as much as possible, of the necessity of every one of them taking an active part in the politics of the country, not only of the country, but of their own organization and realizing this, I know that what we want we have got to become strong enough to take it or at least give a display of our strength, so that the powers that be will recognize and by so doing, they will give us far more than by going and begging for it.

Del. A. Chisholm: There has already been a referendum vote of the membership of the organization that I represent on this subject, otherwise they could not possibly have got me, as their delegate, to come forward. The resolution deals with the reorganization of this institution so that it may become effective, so that it may become an effective weapon in the hands of the workers, and I feel confident that the majority of the delegates in this room present, have also had the same vote from the men they represent. Even if it has to go back to some other form, the expression of this conference is the expression of the rank and file, and it is the expression of the rank and file working in the dark, wanting light, and we have to show them a lead

through the expression of their sentiments.

Del. A. Hill: I would like to state that I have not the slightest doubt that the body I represent would back up the resolution in every shape and form. In going back to previous referendum votes—take conscription for one. You must understand that the psychology of the working class since that time has changed considerably. Further, at the time the conscription vote was taken, which affected a good number of the working class, there was a large number apathetic because they did not come under the age limit, supposed to be conscripted, and I think if you take a referendum vote on this question, it will be the largest one ever polled. The working class has, in my experience, progressed more in the last two years than they did in the previous twenty years, and they realize that the working class struggle is not only a struggle, but not a question of slique with the working class. They realize they are all in the same box, and it has got to be universal action and I think a referendum vote will be entirely different to any referendum vote taken in the past.

Del. Thomas Anderson: I may say that our local must have seen this coming, because before I left they instructed me that if this came up for discussion, that I was to support it, and I will certainly vote for it.

Del. McDonnell: I rise to support the resolution on the grounds that the organization which I represent, in the past, has recognized the futility of appearing before legislative bodies in our country for legislation on behalf and for the interests of the working classes as a whole. The arguments that have been put forward in opposition to the adoption so far conveys to me no plausible argument. The intimation given us by our secretary conveys to me a very plausible argument against the continuation of the B. C. Federation of Labor, as at present constituted, and supports arguments for a complete revision of its policy and reconstruction of this institution for the benefit of the workers as a whole. When a vote was taken of our membership, as represented by the B. C. Federation of Labor in response to an appeal for funds for a campaign deficit of \$950, they only took it upon themselves to repay to our organization \$350, and to me they expressed in the payment of that debt

that they were not in favor of the policy carried on by this body. We have in B. C. at the present time a series of acts for and on behalf of the working class, and they are constructed in such a manner that they perform an injustice against a certain section. I have in mind the Fair Wage Board, as at present constituted in British Columbia. They sat recently and awarded to girls under 18 years of age, a sum equivalent to about \$12.75 a week, and to girls over 18, \$13.75 per week as a minimum wage, and the employers, for to keep up their private balances to their present level, or to possibly increase it, have discharged all girls of 18 and over, and continue to employ the girls under 18. I have come to the conclusion that our legislatures, that our legislative attempts are abortive, and in no way of benefit to the working class. The organization, and for my organization alone, they have paid my expenses to this convention, and I must uphold their dictates. They are of the opinion that the legislative policies of the organization existing at present are not functioning, such being the case, I am obliged by my delegation to vote against any continuation of the present policy.

Del. Rees: I have not before attended a convention of the B. C. Federation of Labor, and I do not want, as one delegate, to have any snap judgment on any resolution, and I do not want some delegates to go home having adopted a question they did not understand. Now, the thing has been discussed, I am inclined to think there would be very little opposition, if any, to the resolution. I think the delegates, or all of us, are beginning to understand what's meant by the resolution. I am satisfied that practically all of us are absolutely tired of sending men to Victoria, Edmonton or Ottawa in the old-fashioned way, by trying to get something through these parliaments in the way of lobbying and begging from politicians. It was my experience these last few months to go for the first and only time, before the Dominion body and we had a caucus meeting prior to going in, of the dignitaries of Labor, if you like, which resulted in one presenting his own fat resolution or something of that kind, to the body there at Ottawa, and the same old process was gone through, and I want to say frankly it was very, very painful, and there is no question about

it, many of us have seen it for many years, and it has always proved a hopeless task; and I, for one, have felt that instead of sending committees to Victoria, Edmonton or elsewhere, that we should have had our representatives on the floor of the House, and that is why I say that industrial organizations, you may think rightly or wrongly, should get men inside the halls of the Legislature for us, and not go as a man clapping hands to beg for something that is our right. Seeing the futility, if you will, of sending men there year after year, spending useless money, there is no question about it that this resolution calls for the right thing. If I understand the resolution correctly, it means this and I sincerely trust that it does. It means that the B. C. Federation of Labor will pave the way, and give a new slogan whereby we send our executives no more to Victoria, but our executive will sit in Vancouver from time to time, and say: "This is our policy, and this is where we stand on any particular question of the day," and rather than go to Victoria, as already stated, our executive will say: "This is the slogan or policy of the B. C. Federation of Labor." Parliament then in Victoria or anywhere else, can do as they like about what we are saying, but we will be stating outside that sphere altogether, and just stating our views in that manner, and if that is the purpose of the resolution, we can pass a unanimous vote in favor of changing the old policy.

The Secretary: I have already spoken on the question, but in view of the fact that the delegate who spoke a few minutes ago said the secretary was opposed, in some of his remarks, to the resolution, I ask him to read the officers' report, and he will find that I could not oppose it, and would be a fool to oppose a motion of this kind after I myself have set out my opinion of the industrial movement as it now stands. I may say that I favor largely the policy of Bob Smillie in the old country. In referring to the general strike referendum taken in this Province, I drew attention to it with a view of saying that we have tried in the past to use our economic strength to secure legislative enactment. Del. Kavanagh referred to my references to the transition period. Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, I was not technically correct. What I meant to say, was that while we may

not recognize it, we are in the midst of an economic revolution in the world today, in other words going through the transition period from capitalism to the co-operative commonwealth, and we will have legislation before we are through with that.

Del. Macdonald, Prince Rupert: I rise to support the resolution. My views have been very well expressed by my Brother Rees, so far as any—so that it is not necessary to take up the time of the convention further than to say that I have lived in British Columbia possibly as long as any delegate gathered here this afternoon, and been connected with all organized labor for that period, and as Bro. Rees has stated, we have been meeting from year to year, using up the money of the Federation, and of the worker, going to Victoria every January and been given a reception. We have heard about these things this morning, and the way things have gone for years. We have listened to the illustration as given by Bro. Cottrell. We have been going an entirely wrong road, and it is time to change.

Del. Wilkinson: As I understand the report of the resolution in supposing that this Federation shall no longer send delegates to Victoria for the purpose of asking legislation, which will be in line with resolutions passed by this body. In a word, it proposes that any connection, however slight, which this body may at present have with the politics of this Province, that that connection shall be severed, and severed entirely and for good. It proposes, as I understand it, to institute in its stead a reliance entirely upon industrial or economic action of its many organizations for the purpose of securing such political measures as it believes will redress the grievances of the workers. It seems to me, that looking at it in that way, the proposition from the general standpoint itself, that it is a proposition carefully thought out for the purpose of testing the question of whether or not this Federation is any good to the organized workers of this Province, and whether it is possible for it to function in any way beneficial to them. If that is the object at the back of this proposal, then I am entirely in accord with it, because if it is decided that this experiment shall be tried out, and then this experiment prove to be a failure, then that discovery shall have been made because

this gathering costs a lot of money, and a great deal of time is devoted to it. As to whether the idea of the workers of this Province relying upon their industrial strength will prove a good one, I am somewhat in doubt. If that test also is made, it may, perhaps, pave the way for the appearance of what will be regarded as a practical and demonstrative proof of the fact that the workers need something more than their economic strength to get what they are entitled to. If that failure taken place, if the failure to get what we want by industrial methods shall fail, it will be a moment for any political party, who think they have the right idea, to then step in and say to the workers, "you see this proposition has failed. The method of going to the powers that be and asking for legislation has, so far as you attempted it by refusing to go on it any longer you decided to try out the strength of your economic organization to get what you wanted. That also has proved a failure. Now then here is what we believe will accomplish the good results." When we gathered together in this convention, we more or less separated for the time being from our organization, and I don't care what you say, when you get any gathering of this kind you usually find that the brightest men from the organization are gathered together, and there is a sort of unionism. Prior to this, the atmosphere is charged with the necessity of doing something and they themselves can see the proposition very clearly, and the men regard them if they are in line with them. That is a good many of the membership are behind them. And although they do not see this proposition in the same way, and I have come to the conclusion that wishes are very often fathers to the thoughts when putting a resolution to this body. Let us ask ourselves for a moment, and I asked the secretary a few moments ago the question with the thought in view, and from the answer which he gave, I should gather that about 30 per cent. is a normal number of those of our affiliated membership who vote on these questions. This question will have to go to the membership, and I have not the slightest doubt that, provided we would be desirous as a whole, of making this proposition stick with the affiliated organization, we could get this proposition through, and to all intents and purposes, it looks to be the real thing, and we might fig-

are to go ahead. But what is the position that essentially affects us when this resolution is presented to our organization? We do not, as a rule, find more than 30 or 40 per cent. attending the average meeting, and then that is the brightest and most interested of the men who are in the organization. I go so far as to say that fifty per cent. of the members of the trade unions of this Province are not acutely, I say, are not acutely interested in the propositions that come before them. It is the easiest thing on the top of the earth, and everybody knows it, if it is a proposition without them to shove it forward, and to get it through. But what would be the use if we did get it through, because when the moment of test came, it would not be only 40 per cent. gathered at the meeting; it is also that the other 60 or 70 per cent. who are not present, whose personal element we still require in such a proposition as this. Del. Kavanagh said a moment ago that parliament cannot work if the workers quit work or did not function. Well, my idea of the position of the average worker in the B. C. Federation of Labor is that when he is not able to work for not by any means a long period, he is not able to function either simply because there is a very small percentage of the workers of this Province who are many weeks away from the actual wants of the cardinal necessities of life. What are you going to do? Are you going to call these men out? My memory goes back to the day when I remember gatherings of organized labor who thought that the mere economic weapon in the hands of the worker would be sufficient. We were ridiculed, and the workers of the union were called out, and what was the result? The organizations did not work together, we were in continual competition with each other and consequently there could be no identity of interest, and if you ever come to the point where you wanted to call a general strike of all these people you would find that diversity of co-interest existing amongst them that it would spell failure for that kind.

If this proposition can be made to stick, if as a result of our experience as members of organized labor for many years we feel it will stick in this province, I say I am not in favor of us simply getting into the position which in the end will turn out a failure and which will mean going into conflict against highly organized capi-

talism as we have in this province.

Delegate E. Grogan: First of all I thought I would start by telling you that I am the representative of thirty boilerworkers working with me and, suppose I say I am a member of the Liberal party and that those thirty workers of mine want me to do something in the shop where they are working that is going to be for their benefit, and I say to them "I won't do it." Then I am a member of the Liberal party which is busted and set aside funds to elect a representative from my district to represent my interests. Then those workers of mine go to my representative in the House in Victoria and ask my representative, who's eating off my meal ticket, to pass a law against me. That's going some, isn't it? What would happen to this politician if he did this against me at the election? He would be on the bum as a politician. He has got his pork chops to look after and furthermore, the working class, the labor people, are under a misapprehension, that is to say, that representations don't flow from industrial boundaries whatsoever. Representations blow from geographical districts and in those geographical districts the wage worker and the master live. Now then he can be represented, seeing that representation blows from geographical districts and the places of property bosses. The working man, having no property, can have no representation, so that, therefore, when he goes to Victoria or Ottawa, to ask the representative of the class which we are working for, for anything, they refuse to put those laws to work on the job, and how on earth can you expect them to put them into force. It is an impossibility. A remark was made, "What percentage of the workers takes an interest in the business of the unions?" The two delegates that asked those questions, do they want to rely on the inactivity of the large majority within the union to kill this proposition? Why is the question asked? If the active minority can lead the ignorant majority or show the ignorant majority the way out, and put the proposition up to them and the power into their own hands and not in the hands of some representative in Victoria or Ottawa, and come back and tell them that these laws cannot be in force, do they think they won't vote? Here we have the Nanaimo disaster of September 14, 1918.

A. S. Wells, secretary-treasurer, in

writing to Honest John Oliver in regard to some law passed, which should have been enforced, to prevent the accident happening at Nanaimo, said: "The recent accident at Nanaimo is another incident of the fact that these laws are not in force as they should be and our executive feels that now that the government has been in office long enough to see that they are in force that no delay should be allowed in the strict enforcement of the law. It is very evident even on a careful survey of the evidence taken at the inquest on the Nanaimo disaster victims that the accident was brought about by sheer neglect and lack of enforcement of the laws of the land. In the case of the Fernie miners they are at this time on strike for safety first, and in view of the evidence that has been given to the government of the dangerous nature of the mines at Fernie, we are of the opinion that the demands of the men should be met." The answer he got was:

"In reply I may say that it is the solicited desire of the government to see that all laws for the protection of labor are enforced to the fullest extent. The government is and stands prepared to consider representations made to us in respect thereto." You see it doesn't matter about putting laws on the statutes; it is who has the enforcing of these laws. Is the ruling class going to set aside money to enforce laws against themselves? Now we have all kinds of laws on the statute books; we have got all kinds of recipes in cook books to cook meals with, but so far as the working class are concerned, why, liver and onions are as far as they ever get on the money. The same way with these laws. They will enforce laws against us, but never enforce one in our favor, and the sooner the working class realize that they have no rights, only those they can enforce themselves, it will not be necessary to have a legislative body.

Delegate G. Hodgson: Speaking in favor of the motion, Mr. Chairman, and I can quite assure you, Mr. Chairman, that the men I represent will hardly be in favor of a motion of this kind unless there is some action, and the reason I give you is this: When the question came before our executive in regard to certain representatives going to this convention, we had quite a little opposition, and the opposition to the question was this way: What are

we going to send a representative to the convention for? What are they going to do? All they have done, to my knowledge, in the past, is all kinds of resolutions, and sending the executive, cap in hand, kow-towing to John Oliver, and things of that kind, and as he has not been successful in getting anything done for the resolutions, 99 times out of 100, because they are flopped in the waste paper basket, we had that opposition. I would just like to say this, that in my opinion the workers that comprise the longshoremen's organization of Vancouver are right behind any move of this organization that will exercise matters that will benefit the workers of B. C.

Delegate Montgomery: I represent another investment of three hundred dollars and have been sent seven hundred miles of travel to come here, and when you come here it is necessary to take some little part in the discussion. I beg to start off with that I am hardly in favor of the resolution, or I should call it a Sinn Fein resolution, that the withdrawal of your support from parliament which we have been looking to for years past and refusing to have any connection with it is undoubtedly due to the way you have gone about it and what you have got for your exertions and expense.

Now, this is a party of reconstruction and there is no doubt about what reconstruction is needed and whose going to be reconstructed. It is us that's going to be reconstructed and this is the place for reconstruction, and I am glad to find a sentiment in this convention that we will do our own reconstructing, that we will inaugurate a parliament of our own to a certain extent and our wish will become law instead of petitioning and begging and praying to others, which does not represent us in anything that we require. I am talking from the organization that has sent me here and paid my expenses. I have no doubt that they will not support this because they have commanded me by resolutions passed there.

Del. Laundry (representing Victoria Trades and Labor Council): Speaking in support of the resolution, I have had from the parties I represent very little instruction. About practically the only instructions I have are along these lines: to support any move to organize the labor movement along industrial lines. I believe with Delegate Chisholm here that practically all

the delegates here have been instructed either explicitly or otherwise along the same lines and that if the case is open where we should begin, the proper place, in my estimation, is right here and now. Delegate Wilkinson over here is not in favor of it because the old policy was a failure. Secondly, we must find a new one. He admits candidly that the old policy we have been following for a number of years is a total failure and it seems to me it is about time to find something else.

Del. Kirkpatrick: I have no definite instructions to follow the course of this resolution, still I attended meetings where they refused to send delegates to the convention or of sending a delegate to this convention on the grounds that it had been a waste of money in the past and it was only when it was pointed out to them that this convention would, in all probability, be the most important convention in the history of labor in the West that they decided to send one, and I feel justified in supporting this motion.

Delegate W. Moulton: I have been listening with great satisfaction and pleasure to the remarks that have been made here. My mind reverted back to the dying days of the last convention at the end of January, 1917, and I was particularly struck at the attitude adopted at that convention in its dying moments and here, just when we are beginning to show a little life, a little activity, we are resorting to a policy of discussing a proposition as to whether the effects that were produced at the last convention are of any further use. At that period in the artificial atmosphere created by that convention referred to by Delegate Wilkinson, it gave birth to a new state of things and by a sufficient sustenance to be administered to it in additional doses to keep it in existence. I am referring to the Federated Labor Party. On that particular occasion I voiced my sentiments as being opposed to it because Delegate Trotter stated on that occasion that it would have to pursue a policy of opportunism to justify its existence. That I was opposed to on that occasion and that indicates my present attitude. No longer are we to be satisfied with the old shibboleth and misleading ideas formulated in the minds of the working class. There is a certain amount of justification for arriving at this conclusion and if that's the idea we want to take into consideration the mentality of our organi-

zation, the educational system, etc. Define for us what the conspiring masses crave, and although I suppose it does not do to be too severe or too hard upon those who are going to hang on to the old traditions and old formulas that existed in the labor ranks, still this must end. Fifty per cent., said my friend here, are not actively interested in the proposals of the convention. I am going to tell my friend sitting on the left, who gave expression to that sentiment, that he is entirely mistaken with regard to the local that I represent. When I tell you that there was an unanimous vote that we should oppose the old system of sending deputations to parliament and seeking amendments to laws and formulating new acts that the local of ours unanimously voted against propositions of that nature. They placed themselves on record as being hostile to such a policy and I have definite instructions, Mr. Chairman, to vote for the elimination in the constitution of the B. C. Federation of Labor of those particular rules that have united it in the past. I am going to tell you that nothing gave me greater gratification and pleasure when my local arrived at that decision, because we recognize that in doing that we have gone a step forward. The rotten political system that we had to have in the past at the least is obsolete. Let us try to get unanimity and break down and substitute something of a different order in its place.

Delegate A. Gill of the Miners' Union: It has been very well stated that the Federated Miners are in a poor position. The whistle blows at 7 o'clock in the morning and we quit at 4. Look at the legislation that we have got through, not going there with power. If we had gone there with power and asked the legislation we would not be seeking six hours a day alone. They go on and work for eight straight hours today, which means that we have got to take lunch baskets into the mines, whereas before we could take two hours for dinner and go to the bunkhouse and get a good hot dinner. I have been serving the master over in France, over where it was needed. I got it into my head that I had to go because I was in bad circumstances; I could not find sustenance for myself very easy. I was a member of one of the most progressive organizations in the world and what did we find. It had consumption and gradually died.

We have to do something in this body. I am safe in saying that there is not 25 per cent. of the miners in British Columbia organized. What have you fellows been doing in these opportune times, that I have heard about. Why, we in our body were disgusted with the progress of the labor organization and in the meantime the masters are piling up their millions. We are absolutely disgusted. I think it was in 1913, if my memory serves me properly, that we came out on strike. As you will know, they had an arbitration board appointed, but what did we get? Nothing. We lost all right, but as a result I think quite a lot of the slaves got educated in the Socialist Party of Canada. There are large mines at the Coast which have never been organized, which absolutely pay no attention to organized labor. I know that Trail was never organized in Goodwin's time and yet we have an executive like Bill Davidson who realizes the economic strength the same as anybody else going back and pleading to the master. I would be in favor of pensioning them off because they did good work years ago, but they have never paid any attention to those organization whatever. He told us a few months ago it was no use going into camps to fry and organize them, and we are sending 50 cents a month to Denver and get absolutely nothing out of it.

Del. Midgley: Delegate Wilkinson, in speaking of this matter, is perhaps the only delegate that has cast any doubts upon the stability of the resolution, and he has to some extent pressed it. His theme has been well thought out and it might be all right under certain circumstances. The B. C. Federation of Labor I have known since its convention in 1909, and, as has been stated by other members, we have had this annual convention dealing with all kinds of conceivable subjects, and we have gone to the representatives of the legislature and the results are pretty well known. Just take for instance the legislative proposal contained in the suggested electoral reforms, and the secretary has informed me that the present government has a new act dealing with elections in B. C. that propounds certain proposals which, from what he says, I presume we are going a little more backward in that respect.

These things are along the same lines and, mark you, all the time we have been going for the last ten years,

to my knowledge, to Victoria asking for the same things, we go back to the workers, and if we are honest we tell them it is not any use, they won't pass those things. The Workmen's Compensation Act, the one bright jewel in the legislative enactment of the British Columbia government, that was put into effect because it was cheaper for the employers to administer compensation in that way than under the old system, and you will remember you only get compensation while actually making profits for the employers, and so you go on down the whole list of it, and now it is time for us to make a little change.

I want to point out, Mr. Chairman, that any delegate that will vote for this resolution, and I think if they go back and explain to their organizations precisely what the resolution means, it will remain to be seen if it will be adopted. Of course it is an amendment to the constitution and it will have to go back to the membership for ratification. One of the matters we have for consideration is the six-hour day as a method of absorbing the unemployed. The employment question has been gradually getting worse from day to day, and many will have to carry their miserable carcasses round the place just muttering and wondering. I don't want to repeat, but if that six hour day is going to be anything more than a passed resolution, then this organization will have to assist in putting it into effect. I am in favor of changing the policy of the organization, and by so changing it making it a real effective organization instead of, as has been the case in the past, only operating at annual conventions and existing on letter-heads till the next convention came round.

Del. J. Stevenson: This is my first experience at the B. C. Federation of Labor convention, and I must confess that since I have come I have learned quite a lot of things. On looking over this officers' report (and there are some very amusing things in it no doubt) about the only thing left out is the settlement of the question about the mixed bathing for the blind. I find some of the things in there very entertaining. In one instance, Secretary Wells found very serious fault in one of the larger organizations.

I don't want to be very long winded on this subject, and I am not referring to Delegate Wells, because I realize he is a hard-working officer of the B. C.

Federation of Labor, but this speaks to me as definite evidence of the fact that the rank and file are tired of the legislative activities of the B. C. Federation of Labor and I shall go back to the Carpenters and request definite instructions as to how I should act on questions such as this. They left us practically to our own free will, and I am prepared to say that I am prepared to support that, and if they hang me I will support the resolution.

Del. Kavanagh: I think this question has been fairly well debated and I don't think this convention can get any further along, and I move the resolution should be put.

The Chairman: I think we should give them an opportunity to express themselves if they desire.

Del. W. A. Alexander (Steam and Operating Engineer): I want to bring out several points that have not been touched. I am in favor of the motion. I want to point out a little of the Engineers' organization. They were promised that in the event of the Liberal Party getting into power that legislation would be brought down giving them an eight-hour day. At this time the stationary engineers round the mills were working from ten to thirteen hours every day or night and were receiving per hour less wages than an ordinary laborer was receiving and their condition was a pitiful one. The engineers had a union, the majority of them were known as portable men, although a number of stationary engineers were connected with them. The organization got into the hands of another budding politician who was endeavoring by legislative means to get an eight-hour day put on the statute book for stationary engineers, and I have since seen correspondence with the government whereby that association informed them that they would be willing to put certain legislation on the books provided that they could get so many votes. The organization at that time was known as "Local 397" of the Engineers, that is of the union. They were not affiliated with any of the central labor bodies and practically an outcast from the labor movement. However, along about a couple of years ago the organization was pretty nearly out of business, and then they started up another local of the engineers, Local 620, and along with the officers that were elected a number were interested in the economic problem that concerned

the workmen, and they realized that if the engineers were to get an eight-hour day they could get it easier through their industrial strength, and we organized and educated along that line, and we also thought we would test out the B. C. Federation of Labor and see if legislation could be got by that means.

Last year, owing to industrial activity, we were able in June, by a system of advertising and a threat of strikes of the engineers, to get an eight-hour day, by our industrial strength. At the present time, owing to the slackness of the lumber business of B. C., we are confronted with the position whereby the lumber mills are preparing to shut down for a month or so, claiming that the price of logs is too high for them to cut lumber and sell it on the market. I have inside information on that, whereby they are going to open up again, and are going to start two shifts of 12 hours for the engineers instead of three eight-hour shifts. Unless we can get the assistance of organized labor, then the next few months the legislation gained by the work of the engineers will be snatched away from them and we will have to go back to the old 12-hour day.

Del. David Rees: I have not much to say on this subject because there is a greater conference taking place in this city this week, and I am hoping, anyway, that this thing will be brought up at this greater conference, and for that reason I will not say much at this time. I have a whole lot to say with regard to this question when it comes up at the greater conference, but at the present time I will allude in the first place to the question asked by Delegate Trotter. That question has never been answered, not directly. That was that this change in policy would mean that the executive of the B. C. Federation of Labor would have to draw up a policy absolute different from the present and what you might call in opposition to the government, or in other words, to sit in Vancouver and criticize what the government is doing. When I heard this policy drawn up and presented and heard this discussion, I was in favor of it, but if it is only going to be a discussion and resolution of this convention, if it going to go no further than this sitting in Vancouver and criticizing, then I am not so strongly in favor of it. I notice in

Delegate Midgley's address that he said it needed a little change. I contend it needs a great change. I don't think we are spending the money of our organization to the best advantage. If we have come so far from the Coast to chew the fat for a little change, I think the money is badly spent if we are doing so, and in this greater conference taking place in Calgary this week we are going in for a great change, and that's all I want to say at the present time.

Del. Sinclair: I know it is useless asking for legislation and getting anything done for the workers. Anything that is got for the workers must be got by the workers themselves and I stand in favor of the resolution.

Delegate Trotter: So far as the resolution now before the House is concerned being an absolute admission of the futility of all previous efforts along the lines that our legislative bodies have been working; it is a mighty good thing that we have arrived at that point where everybody seems to be unanimous upon it. Some of us have for a long time been trying to bring our legislative bodies to that particular view point, but they have so far continued to ride along on the old political lines. By the organizing on industrial lines they have, as political units, been working against themselves. If this admission is going to produce a different psychology politically amongst the workers than that which has been governing them up to now, nothing but good can come of it. I have been one, as a vice-president of this B. C. Federation of Labor, who has visited at sundry times the legislature in Victoria. I have, with other organizations on the labor questions, visited cabinets in other provinces, and the stupidity and uselessness of that form of procedure has been evidence to me on every occasion, particularly when visiting representatives in the B. C. House who hold the seat there at present, for a more stupid and incompetent bunch of people can hardly be gathered together claiming to be the administrative bodies of any province whatever. However, if your action is contemplated, because there must be action contemplated behind this pious resolution; it rests solely with the propagation of a general strike and that alone, and it means that we shall taboo political action amongst the workers, and that we re-

frain from seeking political power. That question will be debated later and I will be found still claiming that we can be a big factor in organizing our political superiority. We have Conservatives and Liberals, but amongst the working class we have just the political party known as Labor. If you don't have this when the workers are prepared to act as a unit, well, nothing can come of it; but on the other hand, if they are prepared to act as one body, well nothing but good can come of it.

As far as this discussion has gone there has been a sort of silence on the political end of it, with the exception of one remark from my friend, Bro. Moulton, of the party I am secretary of, and am not ashamed of it by any means. This resolution indicates that a number of delegates in this convention that hitherto might have been subject to opportunism, have changed their minds. I am still prepared to say that the policy of any party representing the working class must be one of opportunism. If you screw them down to any hard and fast formula, you will be found in the position that Delegate Pritchard found himself yesterday—that he will not be governed by what he thought of yesterday. I will not give over my dictatorship of my industrial union to people who have a change of thought every 24 hours. If any stability beyond that is found, still I am prepared to recognize opportunism to this extent. We must recognize the forces that are re-arranging things, levelling up and levelling down, and to such an extent that we must be opportunists.

I have no objection to the resolution. You will find that, when the resolution proceeds to take concrete form and go into action, that you are up against the very organization from which you come, but if this organization expects to get its members to act on your resolution they will be up against the organization from which they held their charter, so that a whole lot of reorganization will have to be done. All these things are recognized by the people who have brought the resolution forward. There is no fault to find with the nature of it, and the objections taken to the particular form that our international officers and their ideas and psychology take. The long to the organization that has in this last 12 months backed this inter-

national to the extent of ripping through its agreements, and even in this city you will find the printers threw up their hands and came out and got what they wanted. The jobmen in Vancouver went on strike and they stood, though Canada didn't think they would, and a new agreement to the extent of better wages was the result.

Now, you have such results in what is considered a most conservative organization, so that this new arrangement that you are going after, if it means a solid front, should bring results and produce considerable fruit in stirring them up to take a different view of things to that which they have heretofore. My mind is neutral at the present time on your resolution. I would favor it as an educational proposition governed solely by what the majority of your people are going to do in the last instance. Let us have them educated up to that point, but as an individual I will not surrender at the present time from taking what political action that we can in the political field and what's left to us under present conditions and has not yet been done.

Del. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, I represent the Shipwrights. Partly Scotch and the rest of me from Missouri. We have no mandate here from our union on this question at all, nor any question, but when we get back to report to them, it is a case as of "I am from Missouri, so show me."

One fact has not been touched upon by any of the members in speaking for the resolution, and that's a fact that places its reliance for existence in labor movements. Criticism has been offered of the past records of the officials of the B. C. Federation of Labor. Criticism is easy. You show how they have failed, but that is because there was no organization behind it. When you come down to brass tacks, when it comes to a case of backing up, you have got to take into account not only the indifferent members that won't attend, but you have also got to take into account, as one brother said, the districts that have been left unorganized. Those districts ought to be organized today. You have all these facts to take into account in putting this resolution forward. In regard to the union I represent I can only take it back to them and leave it to them. They are the deciding factors and the

question will be asked me when I put it forward, "What action can you take, what are you prepared to do? Show me." I can agree with this brother here in the last remarks we had that we ought to have political action. We have had none so far. You blame it on the Conservatives and I blame it on the Liberals. What did labor do at the last election and every election and what will they do at the next election. In every place you saw labor members put up and they lost their deposits. As some member said, their organization was unanimous in sending them here. I should say the same thing, but I would be lying. My organization did not send me. The active members did and those that sent me did not represent one-third of the union, and I think if you get down to facts and figures, if each delegate will ask himself the question, "How many attended the meeting when this resolution was dealt with, and how many have you got behind you?" and you said it was unanimous, I would doubt the assertion. I could not make that assertion here, and I doubt if many delegates could, and if they can, they have a splendid organization and can get up here and say that they have their organizations behind them in a meeting. We, at the Coast, are down to the point of showing our economic strength and boiled down to the fact that they must go out on strike if you are going to do anything, and you must take that into consideration. The B. C. Federation of Labor has been looked upon as a dead organization, thus we want to try and have it voiced abroad that if we are the last to go into the field, we shall be the last to quit. It does seem that it is the first organization to jump into the field who accomplishes things. They are usually the first to holler to get out. If you are going in for political organization I'll put it up to the union to represent, and maybe they will see it that way, because they have not seen any results in the past. I am not criticizing any officers of this Federation, but you can't criticize facts if your membership turns you down; and if this goes down I hope the officials will have something different to what they have had in the past.

Delegate Allman: As I stated before this morning, as I said, I represent the biggest organization in the prov-

ince, and as I am sitting here with the unanimous vote of that organization, as far as the delegate who offers the remark that the rank and file might turn this resolution down, I do not think it is necessary to be afraid of that proposition at all, because coming down on the train I started out about four or five days ahead of the other delegates to do a little organizing, and the question was asked me by members of the local, "What's going to be the outcome of the convention; what is the main object? What's going to be your line of organization? What are you going after? Are you still remaining with the American Federation of Labor or going to put up yourself and going after the consolidation of the B. C. Federation of Labor as a whole?" And they told me this: "When you come back, and if the convention goes on record to reorganize the B. C. Federation of Labor to become one organization, then we will line up as fast as you can write us up."

Del. Wood: I am in the happy position that my members, the members I represent, were from Missouri, and they were shown and that is why they are very unanimous in the stand I take. They were shown in this way. That across the line they went in search of an idol and they got one in the person of Charlie Schwab. They set him up as an idol and presented him with a gold watch and chain and a purse, and they got what the workers will get who tinker with any political systems—the bills to pay.

Del. J. H. McVety: Every delegate so far has given testimony as to the lack of progress of this organization. None of them appears to attack any of the problems that confront them. If they propose to make any progress along those lines, it is just as well to look the problems fairly and squarely in the face and see what there is in the future a little bit and not pay all the attention to what has gone before. I take it, as Delegate Trotter put it, that the line of action contemplated by the resolution is either one of two. Either with the idea of educating the membership or with the idea of deciding with the executive officers of this Federation, that a certain programme is to be followed and is to be started as a general strike throughout the section of the province or the whole of the province. We have had some experience of that. Delegate

Midgley referred to something we had where we could not do anything with the legislation existing and he mentioned one instance about the laundry workers' strike that we settled. The laundry workers were out until the workers had contributed twenty thousand dollars and they did not accomplish a single point they were after. That's one of the disasters he had in mind. We have had plenty of illustrations of such. We had one in Seattle not so far back and they settled absolutely for nothing. Probably the biggest demonstration of a solid idea was exhibited on the American side in the history of organized labor generally. We are asked either to accept this motion for educational purposes or for action. If we are not going to make any more progress either politically or legislatively till we get education carried on to a sufficiently high pitch to bring it about by economic force, then I say we should stop and ponder and get down to education for some considerable period, and in that case we will remain as we are.

We have had attempts to apply our strength on a general strike on questions of principle and interest, and on questions of such importance to the working classes as that of conscription, and even when there was no conflict of interest between one organization and another there was no general response to the call for a general strike, and I may say that with the range of questions so far submitted with the extremely poor showing of support received when you attempt to secure eight hours for engineers or six hours for printers, or shorter hours for other trades, you will find less solidarity on these issues than on this point. There is no common interest between the miners of the interior on the question of a six-hour day for printers in the town; there is no common interest among the machinists and railway workers for a six-hour day for engineers in the smelters, and you will never reach your object unless this education of the rank and file progresses far more rapidly than it has so far progressed. You will never bring about a general strike in B. C. to enforce any demand of the workers at any particular time. How many workers in the organization here represented would go on strike to enforce better sanitary conditions for the loggers. I don't believe, and I hope I am wrong at that, I don't believe a gen-

eral strike could be pulled off under any circumstances for the loggers of B. C., and my belief is this: That if you are going to abandon the political field, if you are going to abandon the legislative order of things for a remedy by means of general strikes, then some considerable time will elapse before anything material accrues to us.

There is only one way you can get this outside of legislative efforts, and that is by a revolution, and when I say revolution I mean revolution in all its many meanings. What probability is there of settling any problems of the working classes in this country in this outpost of the world's population with such a large country to the south of us not moving along similar lines. I say to you that there are no problems, none of the basic problems of the working classes in the Province of British Columbia that can be settled in the Province of British Columbia. All these problems will be settled in the older countries, and we will come in at the tail end of what they settle for us. I don't say we will take the wages they take, but in the basic changes of the system of production that will happen in the older countries and in such outposts as B. C., with its extremely meagre population and great geographical extent, and to lay this proposition down and to believe the millennium will be the outcome, I say it is wrong, but I am prepared to support it if it's, as I think, for the educational campaign amongst the membership; but to go to them and say, as probably delegates will, "this is going to be the most momentous question and momentous convention," why surely it's going to be more momentous if you don't appoint him as your delegate. This is your convention and the western convention included is not going to settle vital questions for the working classes. These questions will have to be settled in the older portions of the world. I say "go ahead" but remember when you started this resolution here and have done so with the expectation that you intend to call a strike to settle this or that issue, be absolutely satisfied in your own minds that the membership will support your proposition better than on other occasions. Delegates have before supported similar resolutions and yet when they went back to their organizations they threw them down. Let us get away from this old idea of bluff. You will keep on pulling this bluff till some day

you will get called and you might just as well be prepared for the fifth or sixth application of the rules. We have tried it four times now. If you are prepared to believe the proposition is good, let the resolution go through with that idea in view, but if it is for a purely educational means let us not fool ourselves.

(It was moved and seconded that the rules be suspended in order to allow Delegate Pritchard to conclude the debate. Carried unanimously.)

Delegate Pritchard: I am not going to take a great deal of your time. The discussion following the resolution has proved itself in each case. Several delegates are in favor of the resolution with certain reservations, and I object particularly to many of them taking instances to show wherein we have failed. For instance, the demonstration in Seattle. Now, while that was the first demonstration of that kind, I have yet to be shown wherein that demonstration failed. Delegate McVety made a remark concerning Seattle as being a failure that he recognized that as far as Canada was concerned it being a small country, it was too small to lead in international affairs and too small not to follow where the rest lead. Then he will recognize the similarity between the demonstration in Seattle on a small scale and the demonstration in Glasgow, Belfast and Leeds and other great centres of Britain during the past year, and in introducing this resolution it was not, as I attempted to point out this morning, in criticism of the officers of this Federation, but that we were now in a new era, and that it is time to scrap the old machinery, and that we should change according to the change needed. I may, under certain circumstances, change my mind in twenty-four hours, but under other circumstances I do not change my mind in twenty-four years, and my opinion of the political labor faker, the man who seeks at one time to obtain a place not with the interests of the worker, but for personal reasons, my opinion does not change and I will not change on this question so far as I know, now or in the future.

There are things on which you must make a quick change, and there are other questions on which you must solidly stand. On the question of reconstruction there is a certain amount of camouflage to clear away, and politics have been introduced into this discussion by various delegates and secre-

taries of organizations attending, and each has given his definition of the meaning of the words "workers' politics" and seem to think it is wrapped up in the performances of a debating society in accord with its political action. We believe in politics and claim that we know them, and in so doing we do not want the term "politics" to be restricted to mere parliamentarianism, to the eyes and ears of certain old fossils gathered together in a debating club.

There were other points brought out, and some were, that this resolution and its adoption proposes a certain plan of education which the times called into being. As representing the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council we have been, in the past, subject to these little criticisms and innuendoes, and any thing during that time to make life anything but pleasant when we were engaged in anything of progressive ness so far as the workers were concerned. Delegate Kavanagh and myself were elected to this convention by acclamation, and those that are in and around Vancouver know that whatever has been accomplished, there has been a vast change in the conduct of that council. I may say that from its color being a decided bold pink, it has taken on such a hue of vermillion red, that every organization in that town takes notice of what that council is doing, not because the council itself takes the position definitely on every question that affects the workers and says "there is our position, and we intend to maintain it" but because it brings to bear with all the pressure it can its economic strength, and that is the position we take with respect to this resolution, and speaking furthermore concerning the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council we have endeavored to engage in a work of education. We recognize the track of the Labor movement, of those who are not actually interested in labor affairs. We know that a number of the membership in various unions are not interested in anything at all, provided they can be maintained with a working card, and a job, but we realize the great responsibility that is placed on the shoulders of those who realize their responsibility. As far as Vancouver is concerned the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council as at present constituted, is a more vital factor of working class education in that city than the Roman Catholic church, the board of trade and

the Machinists' Union all linked together. They have made the delegates and consider this convention momentous. I do myself, not because I am sitting here as a delegate, but I recognize there are new problems before the labor movement and recognize that the labor interests in Britain, the virile shop stewards' movement that sprung into existence and was put into effect, that it is attempting to realize its aspirations despite the suppression of labor leaders, and Delegate McVety who speaks in exactly the same words as other individuals spoke in Russia, and points out that there is not a man who was a failure, who has been a failure, that is not willing to sit down and state that we are going to make a revolution. I would reply in the words of one of the greatest thinkers of the Nineteenth Century, "Only fools try to make revolutions. Wise men conform to them," and we are on the way, if not now living in a revolutionary period, we are at least in the preliminary stages of a revolutionary crisis. I think there has been enough stated in this resolution by the others about the minds of the delegates, about this revolutionary crisis, and I suggest that we should attempt to take the position of the wise man who conforms to the revolutions and conform to this resolution, and not try to make them believe in its futility. These problems are not of our seeking, they are forced upon us and the men who stand in the way of their realization, are the men who are living in the past have functioned in the older movements, men who do not regard their own uselessness, and the only men who do realize it are those who are supporting.

Delegate McVety says "what's the use of bluffing" and "some day our bluff is going to be called. Delegate McVety is well known to us, we come from the same town, and are members of the same Trades and Labor Council, and I suggest that he is speaking from experience, that we in the last few months have called his bluffs.

(The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried, one voting against.)

The Secretary: I move that the resolution be referred to the committee on Constitutional Law.

(This was carried unanimously.)

The convention was then adjourned to allow the committee to get along with its work.

March 11. A. M. Session.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, please come to order. There are no communications. The next order of business will be reports of committees. Is the committee on resolutions ready to report?

Del. Kavanagh: Yes, Mr. Chairman. (The first resolution, number one, introduced by J. Kavanagh, of the Trades and Labor Council, Vancouver.)

Resolution:

Whereas, The Allied Powers are still carrying on an aggressive campaign against the Soviet government of Russia. Despite the protest of the working class of the Allied nation.

Be it resolved, That this convention protests against the continuance of the war being waged against the Soviet government of Russia and

Be it further resolved, That we recommend to our affiliated membership that we refuse to assist in the forwarding of men, money and materials intended for use against the workers of Russia and that the executive committee carry on a system of propaganda with this end in view."

I move the concurrence of the committee's report.

A Member: Seconded.

Del. Kavanagh: In speaking to this resolution it becomes necessary in view of these facts that despite the influence of the representatives of the Allied powers, that they are intending to cease an aggressive campaign against Russia, we still find that measures are being undertaken with a view of crushing the working class movement of that country, and incidentally of Central Europe. Now we are concerned, insofar as we are members of the same class that they are attempting to crush, we are concerned insofar as the conditions of the times are such that it is necessary, and it is becoming increasingly necessary that the workers attempt to solve their own problems in their own particular manner, and the fact that the solution now in force of development in Russia, is against the interests of the imperialist nations of the world, this aggressive movement against them is being taken. We find that in the report on the debate on this question in the house at Ottawa yesterday and reported in this morning's paper it was pointed out by General McWhurn that the reason troops were sent from Canada to Russia was because in the early months

of 1918 there was a danger that the German forces might break through to the east or rather on the western front, that is, break through insofar as France was concerned, and that the Czecho-Slovak forces in Siberia were in bad straits, and in order to prevent the Germans breaking through France to the sea it became necessary to send men from Canada to Siberia. Now if you can find out where any four thousand and odd men, which is the number being sent from this country to Siberia, can be consistently figured as being useful in opposing the German march on the English Channel then you have a greater imagination than I have. They are still sending men to Siberia and they have sent men to Siberia who were not willing to go, men who have had to be forced on board the ship at the point of the bayonet, and we consider, being members of the working class ourselves, that conditions of affairs should not exist. We have now arrived at the stage where a peace conference is in operation, a conference that is intended to bring peace to the world, which has been undergoing a destructive war for some four and a half years, and we find that instead of trying to solve the problem, and bringing forward some solution of the problem which concerned them, they are more concerned with what they shall do with the crushing of Russia than anything else.

Del. Hill: Just one phase in the resolution there is that I wish to point out as a longshoreman and that is, at the present time they are still shipping munitions and supplies from the port of Vancouver to Siberia. I might state that a tremendous majority of the longshoremen did not like the idea of handling these munitions, but if we refused to handle these munitions it would practically be the death blow to the Longshoremen's union. In the first place they would immediately do one of two things. They would either trans-ship this stuff by Seattle or they would use military forces to load this cargo. We realize the position. The executive body of the international has notified us by circular letter, or asked us what stand we are willing to take regarding the handling of munitions and expressing the sentiments in the letter they were opposed to it. We immediately answered them and told them we were in accord with the sentiment but we could do nothing as a

local organization. It would be absolutely foolish, and this is the stand that the Longshoremen's Union took.

If the Federation of Labor is behind the Longshoremen in not handling munitions to Siberia, they are willing to quit, but individually it would be foolish to refuse to handle them.

Del. Pritchard: Supplementing what Brother Hill of the Longshoremen's organization has said, I think he will agree with me when I state the movement emanated from Seattle 3812, which resolved itself into a long cable communication with President Wilson who was then in France stating our position on this particular question. The movement started from Seattle was to link up all the longshore organizations of the various ports together with the railway employees and transport workers generally into one big movement the object of which would be the refusal to handle the stuff, and that the local in Seattle evidently considered that it would be foolish for any one local or any one part of the workers that worked on the Pacific Coast to quit work without any consent of the whole of the coast. It would be foolish, as Brother Hill points out, for the longshoremen in Vancouver to refuse to handle this stuff when they could send them to Seattle or Tacoma or any other port and ship them in that manner. I do not think there should be a discordant vote in this convention, as to the sentiments expressed in this resolution. There has been enough of this under the surface and secret diplomacy, there has not been in the history of the world two such hypocrites as the professor president down south and Lord Northcliffe's pet Welshman, the wizard of the British Empire. They are a mass of words and piffle, they are shouting big democracy, and they are throwing people into gaol for merely expressing certain opinions.

In regard to Russia, the least we can do until we reach safe alongside of them is to support them and we support the resolution to the very last.

A Delegate: Every organization throughout B. C. as far as I know went on record and adopted a resolution against the intervention in Russia so that now is the time to take up this resolution and take some kind of action and the only way is: We can refuse to handle supplies and munitions or money of any kind at all and if

necessary use the strikes to carry out that proposition. We know, as far as the longshoremen are concerned, they are only one organization but they should have the assistance from every organization to carry out that proposition and it is up to every organization to back them up in every shape and form.

A Delegate: Mr. Chairman, is it not a well known fact that men who have returned to the coast to receive their discharge, they have tried to get them to re-enlist in this Siberian Expeditionary Force.

The Chairman: I believe that is right.

A Delegate: I had a friend that just received his discharge a month ago and that is what he informed me.

A Delegate (speaking for Local 671 Carpenters): While supporting the resolution personally, I cannot say that I have got the support of Local 671. There are a lot of men there that would not come out on strike to support a thing of this kind. I am sorry to say it, but I must say that.

The Chairman: The question before the house is: The adoption of the committee's report.

(The motion was put to the meeting and carried.)

Del. Kavanagh: There were several resolutions introduced in regard to literature and the censorship and of these several the committee has chosen this one as covering the ground in less words than any of the others.

Resolution:

B. C. Federation of Labor,
Calgary, March 10th, 1919.

Per. International Association of Machinists, Lodge No. 777.
Vancouver, B. C.

Whereas, Certain scientific and religious literature has been placed prohibitive; owing to regulations imposed under the War Measures Act of the Dominion of Canada, and

Whereas, War has to all intents and purposes ceased, and armies being in process of demobilization. Therefore,

Be it resolved, That this convention demand full freedom of speech, press and assembly and advocate united action by organized labor to enforce these demands."

The committee reports favorably and I move concurrence with the committee's report.

A Delegate: I second the motion.

The Chairman: The motion is the

adoption of the recommendation of the committee. Any discussion. Are you ready for the question?

(Resolution put to the meeting and declared carried.)

Del. Kavanagh: This is also a resolution that was dealt with by several organizations but this is the one chosen for this convention:

Resolution:

That this convention demand the release of all Political prisoners and the removal of all disabilities and restrictions now upon working class organizations and that we favor united action by organized labor to enforce these demands."

The "working class organizations" refers to all those organizations which have been banned in the order-in-council. The Russian Workers' Association, the Chinese Labor Association and all associations of a working class character which have been placed under the ban by the order-in-council because they believed in democracy and it is for the representatives to deal with that question. The committee reports favorably and I move concurrence in the committee's report.

(The motion was seconded, put to the meeting and declared carried.)

Resolution:

That the interests of all members of the international working class being identical, that this body of workers recognize no alien but the capitalist. At the same time we are opposed to any wholesale immigration of workers from other parts of the world who would be brought here at the request of the ruling class."

The committee reports favorably and I move concurrence with the committee's report.

(The motion was seconded.)

Del. Kavanagh: The idea of this resolution arises out of the strong efforts which are being made at this moment to draw the alien question across the track of the returned soldier in order to prevent him from seeing the actual conditions existing in the country and not being able to provide him with the jobs they have promised when he went they are now putting the blame upon the fact that while he has been away the vast profits have been made by the alien who staid behind and took his job. In order to turn the soldier from the actual conditions existing they draw the alien question across the track and prevent

any attempt to make it up with the organized labor movement.

We take the stand that we recognize no alien; the only alien, to our idea, is the exploiter, and consequently we are making this statement upon this question in order to clear the air as far as this Federation is concerned.

Del. Pritchard: One point I think we ought to impress on this convention, and that is the position of the alien before the signing of the armistice, a point which is deliberately forgotten by those sinister influences that are work. We have taken the position that labor has nothing to fear from the returned soldier if he be left alone, and that if the forces who insist on using him do not leave him alone they may come across a boomerang that will behead them.

We had a meeting with certain soldier organizations in Vancouver and representatives from the Trades and Labor organizations, and this question of the alien was brought in. We asked the question first: "Who constituted an alien?" pointing out that the individual they considered the alien was a working man who had been brought here by divers promises in order to build the outposts of the empire, to build the railroads, and brought in here under vast emigration schemes, and when here along with the rest of us he was compelled to find a job or go to work, and the job he is in here now is the result of being pressed into that job by virtue of the orders-in-council and pointing out further, there were two sides to every bargain and if the alien had got his highly paid job the man who employed him was also a party to the agreement, and who was that individual?

We pointed out further towards the deportation of the aliens, that this would not solve any question at all, because in other countries where the alien problem could not be considered acute because there were no aliens, the same economic problems confronted the workers and perhaps to a greater degree than they did here; and it is just as well for this convention to state its position on that alien question so that we can go to the various soldier organizations and point out the problems that confront the working class and they, along with us, because they are of us.

Del. Rees: I may say that we held a meeting her two weeks ago, in Calgary, in the Sherman Grand, and I

had an opportunity of speaking to a few returned soldiers; and the point that struck me very forcibly was the fact that when they were up in the lines they could dig out all kinds of things about the man on the job striking, and aliens in particular, earning \$15 a day, but they never heard anything about Flavell and others until they got back to this land, and I mention this for this reason. Our delegates ought to be somewhat guarded about the soldiers, not to antagonize the soldiers, especially for the first few weeks, until he has an opportunity to get a different viewpoint than he had in the front lines.

Del. Gill: I, being a returned soldier, realize the fact that most men who come back from the front come back with a little more spirit than they went away with. They are up against hard facts. I have heard many good discussions in the front line trenches, but never against unionism or never against Socialism. When I was waiting in Vancouver, waiting my discharge, and being tossed around by the powers that be for about three months, the wife receiving no separation allowance, only \$25 of my wages out of \$45. I happened to be a sergeant, and, having a few shillings of my own, I did not have to become a public charge. There was a meeting in the theatre opposite the Main Hotel—I forget the name of the theatre—and that night a man named Roberts was chairman—he comes from Victoria—and in his speech, more or less, he suggested that the returned soldiers go scabbing. I listened to his conversation for 25 or 30 minutes, and as soon as he was through I jumped up and asked a question. I said that I had followed his main arguments as closely as I could possibly follow him, and I could not realize what he was talking about. I realized what he was doing all right, and I had come to the conclusion that he did not have the courage to come out and say, "Look here, boys, go and scab." He did not have that courage at all, but what he did was to put up a nice little talk at this meeting, and said he was interested in building ships, and after he made his speech I asked him the question, "Do you want us to go scabbing or not?" He told us in another part of his speech that there were returned soldiers working side by side with union men in the shipyards at Victoria, and I told him right there he was either trying to mis-

lead that meeting or he was ignorant as regards unionism, and afterwards he tried to answer my question and got right into it again, but he would not come straight out, and I raised a point of order, and he tried to answer it and he could not. I then raised another point, and the consequence was, some of them were shouting for the question and some were shouting to throw me out, but I can tell you I did not get thrown out.

The Chairman: The question before the House is the adoption of the recommendation of the committee.

(The motion was put to the meeting and declared carried.)

Resolution No. 5

By International Association of Machinists, Victoria Lodge No. 456, Victoria, B. C.:

"Whereas, holding the belief in the ultimate supremacy of the working class in matters economic and political, and that the light of modern developments have proved that the legitimate aspirations of the labor movement are repeatedly obstructed by the existing political forms, clearly showing the capitalistic nature of the parliamentary machinery;

"This convention expresses its open conviction that the system of industrial soviet control by selection of representatives from industries is more efficient and of greater political value than the present system of government by selection from district.

"This convention declares its full acceptance of the principle of 'Proletarian Dictatorship' as being absolute and efficient for the transformation of capitalist private property to public or communal wealth.

"The convention sends fraternal greetings to the Russian Soviet government, the Spartacists in Germany and all definite working class movements in Europe and the world, recognizing they have won first place in the history of the class struggle."

The committee reports favorably and I recommend the adoption of the committee's report.

A Delegate: Seconded.

Delegate Pritchard: I would move an amendment that the word "Europe" be deleted and the word "world" inserted.

A Delegate: I second.

Del. Pritchard: "Sending fraternal greetings to the working classes in Russia and Germany," specifically men-

tioned, and then as a generalization of the other definite working class movements in Europe, that would seem to indicate that Europe was the world. While we recognize that necessarily, being an older country, Europe is taking the lead, we at the same time recognize the identity and the interest of the workers the world over, and in sending these greetings to wherever they may go I would certainly be in favor of having them sent to the workers of Russia, Germany, Italy, Roumania, France, Britain, Australia and every other part of the world.

Del. Kavanagh: I do not think there would be any objection on the part of the committee to making the amendment suggested by Delegate Pritchard.

The Chairman: I take it, that will meet with the approval of the committee and will meet with the approval of Delegate Pritchard, and so that will form a part of the committee's report. The question before the House is the adoption of the recommendation of the committee.

(This was put to the meeting and declared carried.)

Local Union No. 170, Plumbers and Steamfitters

"Whereas, the termination of the war in Europe will finally release approximately 50,000,000 men for service in the industrial fields; and,

"Whereas, the workers of the world engaged in productive occupations during the period of hostilities have produced sufficient food, clothing and other necessities of life for the people of the world;

"Therefore, be it resolved, that this convention assembled go on record as demanding a six-hour work day, five days a week, to go into effect on May 1, 1919, June 1, 1919, and an intensive education propaganda be instituted to that end."

The committee reports favorably and I move the adoption of the committee's report.

A Delegate: I second.

A Delegate: What date was that?

Delegate Kavanagh: June 1. The original resolution ran "May 1," but in view of the fact that there would only be a matter of six weeks between the end of this convention, and the first of May, and in view of the fact that considerable propaganda is needed throughout the province to make this thing at all effective, and particularly throughout the western provinces

as a whole, it was felt more good could be obtained by putting it off for one month in order to give a greater time for propaganda, than by rushing it, and probably not having such a successful result as would be obtained by the longer period of time in which propaganda could be carried on.

The Secretary: While perfectly in accord with the resolution I am of the opinion that a six-hour day must be dealt with, by, and in, a much wider field than in the province of British Columbia, and I am of the opinion that while we can carry on our propaganda in this province, that in view of the fact that we are going to have a western conference here which will comprise the four western provinces, and that conference will have a large effect on the ideas of the workers in the eastern provinces who are not going to be represented, that while we adopt the proposition the resolution should then be referred to the western conference for them to take action, and I move accordingly.

Delegate J. B. Bradstock: I second.

The Chairman: It is moved that the motion be adopted and then be referred to the western conference. Is there any discussion?

Delegate McDonnell: Does that include the amendment?

The Chairman: The amendment is that the recommendation of the committee be adopted and that the resolution be referred to the western conference. That is the amendment. Any discussion?

Del. Midgley: I have no objection to the amendment, and I do not wish to debate the motion because it has already been threshed out time and time again, in some parts of the province of British Columbia at least, but I want to point out that perhaps the amendment to refer this resolution to the western conference might refer equally to each of the preceding five resolutions. All of them will come up for consideration at the western conference, and if we are going to adopt the resolution we might as well adopt this one the same as we have the others and then refer the proposition to the western conference for its consideration as being the meat of the matter that we have discussed in this convention.

Del. Kirkpatrick: In submitting this resolution the committee was well aware of the fact that a six-hour day could not be established in Brit-

ish Columbia alone, but they were also aware of the fact that no combined efforts could be made unless something of this description had come from some centre. It had to have a starting point, and it had to have some definite action expressed in that resolution and the date and such like to be fixed for action to be taken. In view of that fact I think that thing would be better if the discussion was left to the western conference, Mr. Chairman.

Del. Rees: The local union I am representing, Nanaimo, has called a meeting and, among other things, it passed a resolution of this kind, that we go in for a six-hour day and a five-day week. Is that included in your motion, a five-day week?

Now, there are many things brought up in this resolution, and we might as well open our eyes to it. The question is very pointed and that is, the effect of your organization. We met in this hall some two weeks ago, the Miners' Union of District 18, and they had the same resolution under discussion, and after reasoning out all the pros and cons the mine workers of District 18, which is supposed to be the most revolutionary district in the United Mine Workers of America, finally agreed, recognizing the futility of District 18 attempting to go ahead by themselves, to defer action on any six-hour day until such time as a meeting that is being held in Indianapolis on March 18 next, will meet where all the districts will be represented and take up the question of the six-hour day and the five-day week. Now, at the same time, they were urged into that position, because, as we pointed out, the District 18 miners could not hope to adopt a six-hour day without the mine workers on the other side of the line also adopting it. Even at the present time there is a big difference between the mine workers on the other side and between ours in B. C. We have an eight-hour day, and they have what is called an eight-hour day. They work at the coal face eight hours and are away from home ten hours. The mine workers in Alberta work eight hours from bank to bank, so there is a big difference, and I am of opinion, when this meeting takes place in Indianapolis, they will go even further. And you know, you men who have been reading the press, that the British miners, a powerful organization, has recently taken a strike vote and there has been an overwhelming majority in the Old

Country for the adoption as speedily as possible of the six-hour day, together with a thirty per cent. advance in wages and so on, but simply for some reason they have deferred action from March 15th until March 22nd, and in the meantime, some government commission is sitting there and taking up all the phases of the question.

The point I am coming at is, Mr. Chairman, that until we go down to Minneapolis and discuss this six-hour day in that policy committee meeting, we cannot discuss wisely and effectively a six-hour day for the American coal miners or for the American workers on the American continent, but I will say now and you can call this reactionary or anything else, that it would be extrem folly for B. C. alone or for even the western conference, even if they pass a resolution unanimously to strike on June 1st for the six-hour day and the other people continued to work. There is no question about it and we need not try to hide the fact, it is there. How ridiculous it would be for all the men east of Port Arthur not to be striking at the same time as ourselves, and how ridiculous it would be for eight millions of men, women and children in Canada, if you like to put it that way, to be on strike with a hundred and ten millions in the United States to strike for the six hour day with the people of the Old Country working, and the people of Europe working. So we may as well size it up. The resolution calls for, as I understand it, your laying down tools on June 1st in B. C. and we will spread as much propaganda as we can in the meantime and I am going to say now without attempting to fool myself and not wanting to fool you, at the same time you won't spread sufficient propaganda from now to the 1st of June to get all parties in Canada alone, apart from the people outside of Canada to lay down their tools for a six-hour day.

There are many things to consider and I am hoping when we are in the policy committee meeting I will say this as one, if nobody else does it, that we naturally expect the Old Country Triple Alliance movement if you like, or some other kind to be brought about, whereby we will work as one and at the same time, and I can expect that if we can have a favorable organization like that Triple Alliance and these men sending their greetings as we are sending it to the Russians and the others and taking some co-operative

steps simultaneously, at some date I am afraid not in June, that we can do something all right, and I will not support the motion to put a section of Canada and a small section at that on strike by June 1st when I cannot hope to succeed by so doing.

Del. Casey, Prince Rupert: Representing the Fish Packing Union of Prince Rupert, I am in duty bound to carry out the mandate of my union, but in accordance with the policy of the executive in dealing with this six-hour day, it might be as well to have a circular sent to all the unions to ascertain the extent, for instance, that the miners' unions would stretch themselves to act in conjunction on this six-hour day movement.

My particular union took the position they were prepared to go to any extent, provided the movement was of a national character, at least. Now, that is the position taken by my union, and that is the position that I pointed out before the committee yesterday, and my expenses are being borne to represent a certain union, and I am duly bound to obey the mandate of that particular union on this particular question.

Del. McKenzie, of the Loggers: We realize that the six-hour day calls for united action. This matter came from the carpenters union, and I, in the resolutions committee, moved that it be postponed until June 1st. Particularly I am rather in accord with Del. Rees' statement that to make it effective, we should organize all the forces at our command, and we should not only make it a national character, as far as the Dominion of Canada is concerned, but extend it to the country south of the line, and if possible, to Great Britain. Now, the organization which I represent is really in the process of formation. We have just begun to organize the loggers, and as things are going there is no doubt we will have them pretty well organized about the middle of the summer probably, and although our union, in dealing with the B. C. Federation of Labor, voted unanimously in favor of taking any action that would favor the effort to gain the six-hour day, still we realized, that in the condition we are now in, that we would be absolutely powerless to bring any pressure to bear, and the reason for extending it to June 1 was simply to get in the propaganda, and to get the necessary machinery working so that we would be able to show some display

of force or power to the powers that be, in order to get the point.

Del. Naylor: Being on that resolutions committee I would have liked to oppose the extension from the 1st of May to the 1st of June. It has been pointed out—in the first place, I ought to say my reason for being against the extending of this strike away from the 1st of May to the 1st of June. You must understand, fellow delegates, that we are living in a time, and, judging by the signs of the times, by the 1st of June most of us are going to be out of a job anyway, whether we want it or not, and whether you come out on strike or whether you do not come out on strike you are going to be out of work; a whole lot of you that are in jobs today; that is the tendency of the times.

Now that was the reason why I was against the extending of the calling of this strike away from the 1st of May to the 1st of June. Del. Rees has pointed out that in Britain they are going to take action on the 20th of March, or the 22nd of March. That does not matter, it is immaterial; but the workers of Britain will have to decide before even the 1st of May what they are going to do with the six hours, and that means to say, if we are going to take the British workers as a criterion, if the British workers fall down on this, we are going to fall down also; that we have not got the initiative ourselves, that we cannot do anything for ourselves, and we have got to act with the British workers whether they are reactionary or progressive.

Del. Fraser (Boilermakers): On the six-hour day question you have only got to go back to 1914 and 1915, when we were not even allowed to work six hours a day, when it depended on the number of your family for you to get three days a week; that was a 24-hour week. We were allowed to work only that. If you had three in a family you got perhaps three days or two days, and four or five in a family, you got a day more, and the workers went scuffling among themselves to get that extra day, or because so and so got a day or so more than the other fellow. Now we want to try and bring in a six-hour day to help ourselves along and to make room for the other fellow and give him a chance to get half a loaf, and we think there is going to be a lot of opposition put forward by the bosses and we may have to fight for it. I recognize we may have to,

but I do not see why we should lay down our tools to fight for it. Let the boss understand we are going to have the six-hour day and if he is satisfied with that let him withhold the tools of production from us, let him lock us out.

Del. Midgley: When these conditions come around in history, as they have done repeatedly in the past years where the unemployment problem increases, in the past organized labor movements have simply sat down and made no effort to meet the issue, and we have found that as the unemployed army increases, so our organizations decrease in numbers. They wither away and disappear like the snow out here does when the chinook wind blows. We not only find our organizations wither away, and that wages decrease with the growth of the army of the unemployed, but we also find that the situation is aggravated by an increase in the hours of labor. We have found in the building trade, where we have been able to establish a 44-hour week during the good times of prosperity, when most of the men were working, but when the work was slowed down to a large extent, a number of men were thrown out of employment, and not only did wages go down but the hours increased and men were beginning to work Saturday afternoons.

It is true, as Del. Rees remarked, we must try and make this movement as wide and as big as possible and try to get as many people as we possibly can to join with us. If you travel from Vancouver, British Columbia, eastward to the Atlantic coast, you will find, if you make enquiries as you travel east, that the condition of the workers gradually becomes worse as you get east. Their wages are lower and their hours of work are longer. We find that while they work in the shipyards on the Pacific Coast eight hours a day, on the Atlantic Coast they are working ten hours a day, which disproves the argument that you cannot make the hours shorter in one locality than another. We find the shipyards in Vancouver are working 44 hours, and further south, down in San Francisco and the other shipyards south of the line, they are working 48 hours a week. You find conditions are considerably different. One locality is working eight hours a day and another is working ten hours, and if that is possible, it is still possible to make a

further adjustment, and, in my idea, we have to make the beginning somewhere. Some one has to make a start and make the suggestion, and I believe at this meeting the six-hour day will spread down the Pacific Coast. I believe that there is no doubt the Western Conference will endorse it and put it into effect. Someone has to make a beginning, and it would be better for us to lose our organizations, and even lose the strike, as we find so many delegates afraid of us doing from making an attempt to improve the conditions rather than meekly lay down and let the unemployed problem swamp us entirely.

I am opinion different to most of the delegates who have spoken previously in regard to strikes being lost. I do not think any strike is lost even if ostensibly the object for which the men went out was not obtained. The Seattle strike was referred to as being lost, but as a matter of fact you will find the conditions in this case are much better in working than they ever were before, even though the object for which they went out was not obtained. The fact that they were prepared to quit any time to get better conditions is a more hopeful sign, than to see them meekly laying down and willing to take the chances as the system would bring to them.

Del. McDonnell: On rising to support the resolution, Mr. President, the organization in dealing with this proposition has gone into the ways and means of bringing about this thing, and in thinking so we took into consideration the millions of dollars that have been spent in the past by organized labor throughout this continent for the establishment of the eight-hour day.

The same condition prevails in the Dominion of Canada and throughout the entire world. Conditions change as we go from one province to another. We find an organization with one hundred per cent. organized in the province of British Columbia, and we start out and go into Manitoba, and we find some organizations with the same sort of propaganda are only about 40 per cent. organized, and we have to take into consideration before we start any international propaganda for the establishment of the six-hour day the numerical strength of the organizations who are going to support the propaganda, and the position they are in, but if we, in British Columbia, come to

a determination that we shall go to work at 9 o'clock and quit at 12 o'clock, and go to work at one and quit at 4, with that as a day, and we have decided to take action by direct action, and we will lay that down to the bosses and we are now ready to take our stand.

Del. Trotter: In connection with the five-day week and unemployment, which has been referred to. Our organization in the City of Vancouver—the one I represent here—passed through that period of unemployment in 1914 with 50 per cent. of our organization unemployed, but if you have your strength in your organization you will find that these things become easier. We decided in our own local organization to work five days per week and some of them who maintained that it was absolutely necessary in the positions they were in that they should work, we decided that if they continued to work the six days, that they would be financially no better off. We would fine them to the extent of that day and put that in the relief fund, which was done, and the members paid the extra day per week to the relief fund, and those of our members who needed relief were paid from that fund. In addition to establishing the five-day week in our own local organization, a ten per cent. assessment was placed upon the membership and also paid into the relief fund, and so the members were carried along in that way, but the point I want to make about the five-day week is this: If you have the strength in your organization you can decide yourselves that you are going to work so many days per week and hold your membership to it. That is the situation. And if you are not organized sufficiently well to determine that state of affairs, then you are not organized sufficiently well to carry the proposition to a successful issue. Now you have got to look at things in that way. There is considerable merit, and in fact whatever merit there is in the discussion that has gone on, in my opinion, lies in Del. Rees' statement and the proposition that you must have an agreement with the floating population such as we have on this North American continent, and with the fellows in a like industry to yourselves who can be easily moved, if you can have such a proposition.

The six-hour day and the five-day week ought to be a slogan which ought to catch everybody. We only work

seven and a half hours per day in our industry, and we demanded seven hours on the last agreement, but we got other concessions which, for the time being, satisfied us, but we told them the next time we made an agreement we shall work no more than seven hours per day. The chances are now with the progress that is made, that the six-hour day will be a slogan, and also, we believe in shortening the hours rather than increasing the wages.

Del. Morrison (Vancouver): I am in favor of the resolution, but I do not think it goes far enough. I do not think it covers the situation at all. I said in 1914 I was placed in the position of fighting in Vancouver for half-time. Men were working two weeks out of four and then came more acute and it was two weeks out of six, and we finally reached the limit of two weeks out of eight. I may state I see no difficulty in putting the six-hour day into force. I do not see why we should make it universal, and I do not see why we should when we went after the eight-hour day. As electrical workers we established it in one branch of the craft and others in the same branch of the craft working for other contractors and other companies were working ten. They took it piecemeal, but as the stronger we organized, and stronger efforts were brought from time to time, finally we got it all over. In some lines of business men were working Saturday afternoons, and men working for other companies were not working Saturday afternoons. I do not see any difficulty at all about it. We can take it piecemeal; take British Columbia or a portion of British Columbia. You cannot establish it universally for a start off.

Del. Campbell: Having received a message from the Carpenters that they are going to support the establishment of the six-hour day in their vicinity on May 1, it becomes my duty of course to support the motion, but still, at the same time, this convention has already supported a policy of solidifying the workers, inasmuch as they passed one resolution tending towards that, and probably other resolutions will come up. At the present time there is a great cleavage in the ranks of the workers and we have not unity. Therefore, I think that the date should be left open and possibly be handled by some active committee until this convention gets further ahead and sees

what it can do along the lines of industrial unionism.

Del. Moore: I may say, following out the instructions of our lodge, that I am instructed to support this resolution, whether it was national, sectional or continental, or whatever it might be. I might say that in a convention of the Pacific Coast metal trades, a six-hour resolution was passed through there and they have already appointed a propaganda committee to go up and down the coast, and I believe a committee in British Columbia to spread some propaganda in regard to the six-hour day and other ameliorating things for the workers, and I think that while things are sometimes started locally for the benefit of the workers, the 44-hour week which we established in B. C. was not established in any other part of the Dominion of Canada or on the other side, but I think if we could get the co-operation of at least the Dominion of Canada and the co-operation of the Pacific Coast on the other side, we would be in a much better position to get somewhere.

Del. Chisholm: From the remarks of some of the delegates present, you would think, or you would take it, that this movement was a movement of the workers in an endeavor to better their own particular position, but in reality it is a movement of the workers in correspondence with the economic development of society, and this question is not merely a question of the workers or the representatives of the workers, but is a question of the masters too, and we find that this question of shortening the hours of employment, is perhaps of more interest to the masters than it is to us. We know well enough the masters, as a class, are not in a position to accept long periods of unemployment any more than we are, and that they are very much afraid of a crisis in any of these unemployment crises, and they are afraid of their own positions, so that in support of the motion, I believe that we do not need to entertain much fear of opposition from the masters in that manner, but we must in the meantime organize our forces to the best of our ability to carry on a propaganda campaign to the utmost possible extent.

Del. Bardsley: I rise to support the resolution as a member of the resolutions committee, and I certainly take the stand that Brother Naylor took, that the date should not be delayed beyond June 1st. It seems to me, from

what Del. Rees said, and I am not referring personally to him at all (I do not mean anything personal), but it seems to me that they are trying to place us workers in the Province of British Columbia in the position of: Father over here in Britain, Mother over here in the United States, Boys here in B. C. Father says to son: "Son, you cannot move unless I say so," and Mother says, "Obey Father, boys." (Laughter.)

No, Mr. Chairman, I maintain that June 1st is quite long enough to delay this action, if any action is decided to be taken by this convention. We must always remember that although the workers who we represent may not be so glib of the tongue as what some of us are here, still we have got to recognize the fact that today a considerable number of these men who have sent us here to represent them, to explain this proposition, although they cannot say it quite so well as we do, they are still in support of the proposition. Now then, I myself take the stand that we are seeking to break away from the bucket shop of the international officers of the American Federation of Labor, that is, I think, the essence of the move. They have told us long enough: "You fellows shall not move without us," and it is up to us to say to them now, "We are going to move when we consider the conditions warrant us moving, whether you like it or whether you do not," and British Columbia means to carry on this propaganda and eventually it may happen, as some members have said, we go to work and do not call a strike but to go to work at nine a. m. in the morning and quit at twelve o'clock noon and go to work at one o'clock and quit at four o'clock and say "that is all we are going to do and do what you like about it."

Del. Kavanagh: Mr. Chairman, this discussion is covering quite a range and in the main has merely gone back to what was possible some few years ago. Now, you cannot judge the present day or the present year by any day or any year which has gone before this, because a different condition of affairs exists that what have existed since capitalism itself came in to existence. We must recognize that for some four and a half years thirty millions of men have been engaged in the process of destruction, men who have been taken from industries. In

the early stages of the war the regular armies were killed off, the retreat from Mons whiped out the Imperial army and all of the men who have been taken insofar as the British army is concerned were taken from industry directly and yet, in spite of the fact that some ten millions of men were raised by the British workers, and in spite of the fact that another eight millions were engaged in the production of things necessary for destructive purposes, yet the workers have carried on production and fed and clothed and have supplied the fighting forces with more food and clothing than they ever heard of in their lives before not to speak of the destructive implements of war.

Now, we are faced with the situation where these men are coming back and where places must be found in industry and places cannot be found because the market is closed, consequently we are in such a condition where political influences are not worth just as much as industrial conditions themselves. We realize this that the number of men coming back to British Columbia, are, in greater proportion to the population of that province than the number of men in any other part of this country, and that the unemployment situation will be felt greater, particularly in the larger centres of this province than it would be in the larger centres of the United States of America or of eastern Canada, and we must further realize that the conditions prevalent in any particular industrial district determine the conditions of the workers in that district and not conditions in some other part of the world. (Hear, hear.)

The eight-hour day for the building trade was inaugurated in this country without Great Britain being considered, and the eight-hour day for miners in British Columbia was being fought out without considering whether the miners anywhere else had it or not. It was a question of whether or not it could be forced and because Great Britain has not yet got the six hour day or because the miners in Great Britain may not get the six-hour day, it does not alter the fact that the miners anywhere else in America can not get that. If you take that view point you take the stand that in a certain country at a certain time, that a certain number of hours of work, produces a certain number of commodities, and that same experience, and the same

condition applies everywhere. We know that is not so. We know that in the highly developed United States of America that the worker there is the cheapest animal on the face of the earth, but we also know that during the war in Great Britain that the persons engaged in the munition production in Great Britain, who worked the shortest hours of any worker engaged in munition production produced more and cheaper than any workers on the face of the earth in that industry, to such an extent that the British firms could produce shells forty dollars cheaper than the American firms with all their methods of production and all the raw materials at their own door. We know this condition does not necessarily apply that because the workers in one part of Canada cannot get a thing that the workers in another part are compelled to act in the same way. We must understand this also, that a revolutionary spirit is in the air.

The workers of Russia did not wait for the balance of the world before they made their start and it is not a case of whether we want a six-hour day because we desire a six-hour day, but it is because the condition of the times demand that a shortening of the working day takes place in order that the situation might be alleviated. We know it is a problem and we recognize we are still as much ahead on the six-hour day as ever we were on the eight-hour day and we must recognize further it is better to inaugurate, if possible, a six-hour day now whereby a certain measure of employment will be provided than to delay action and to give the ruling classes an opportunity of killing in the bud, any action of the workers by the use of the machine guns. We know that much and we know the existence of unemployment means food riots, and we know that if that situation should arise and the workers of that particular country and that district are not organized, it means the fomenting of a premature revolution and the wiping out of the workers on the streets of the cities, but we do not want to take such action. In the meantime we should go to work so as to keep conditions as good as we can, and carry on a system of education so that when conditions do compel them to take control of things in their own interests, that the counter revolutions may be not so great as

they will be in cases where the mob is used.

For these reasons because of the fact that the rulers of this and other countries recognize the danger with which they are faced I do not anticipate opposition on the part of the larger industrial corporations to this proposal that some people might imagine, but there is no law upon the statute books and there is nothing in existence in this industrial world to control production; to alleviate certain conditions of production that were not inaugurated by the master class, for the benefit of the master class alone, and it is the body of industrial capitalists in a small line, the fellow who does not know anything outside of hiring and firing people and so on and so forth, who we have to fear and they would fight this proposition but I am convinced that realizing the situation that is arising, and realizing the temper of the men, realizing they will adopt a proposition which will alleviate their trouble for a short time.

Del. Rees: I would move as an amendment that this convention instruct their delegates present and by circular to those not represented that the representatives of the international unions of all organized bodies be compelled to take a universal vote on the question of laying down tools if necessary, in order that a six-hour day shall be established as speedily as possible following the tabulation of an assuredly favorable vote on the question, and if the international unions fail to take a vote as suggested, that such a vote be taken throughout the Dominion of Canada in order that national action might be taken. Do I get a seconder?

A Member: I second.

Del. Rees: Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, I have listened with interest to the discussion this morning and to the remarks of Delegates Kavanaugh, Stevenson and others but let us see if we cannot understand this question as one delegate in the back apologized for passing personal remarks, let us try and express our own opinions on the question without any personalities. In arguing a question each man has got his own idea or own opinion or theory for advancing, and presenting his case the best he knows how. He might fall down in so doing. Let me point out to my Brother Stevenson, I did not say the six-hour day was a revolutionary move. I never said any such thing. I

did say it was necessary, in my opinion, to, if possible, work in harmony with the British workers and the American workers to make the change an assured success and I do say so now and that is the reason for making the amendment. The purport of the amendment is: If it can be established with each delegate when he goes home belonging to an international union or otherwise, if he will have his local, if he can so advise them to write the international union, that a vote shall be taken immediately, and when I say immediately you would have to give them a week or two but not further than May 1st, on the question of whether or not the working classes shall I say of this country south of us at this time are prepared to adopt the six-hour day, and if such a vote can be taken despite the opinions of our Samuel Gompers and others as have been mentioned in this convention from time to time, I am convinced in my opinion as to how that vote will go. I am convinced in my mind that notwithstanding what has been said by some delegates that the workers are now prepared at this time for this ameliorative measure, the six-hour day, and let me point out, Mr. Chairman, that I can sufficiently see the six-hour day is not the panacea we want because as Delegate Kavanagh pointed out, that if a small section of the workers of the country can produce at the time of war sufficient food stuffs and munitions to keep such overwhelming numbers of men engaged in that capacity, then most assuredly the six-hour day does not go far enough, and I was thinking the thing to do is this: The six-hour day as Brother Stevenson said, is only temporary. We must reduce our hours of labor correspondingly to the amount of men that is absorbed back after they are demobilized. There is no question about that. The six-hour day has a good sound and is something that all kinds of people are looking for at this time. Many of the delegates, possibly the majority of the delegates at this convention representing the membership in British Columbia they can see, those who have studied economics sufficiently, can see this thing, it does not go far enough. We must remember there are all kinds of Men in British Columbia who as yet have not given a first thought to a question of this kind. We must also remember that we are going to suggest a general strike as has been suggested, and I think it is relevant to the ques-

tion in order to force the six-hour day in British Columbia, but a general strike is an absurdity when there is no work. We discussed this matter pro and con in our miners' convention and we used one I think very decent illustration that stopped the strike as far as the miners were concerned, that what was the use of calling a general strike for the Bituminous miners or for the District 18 miners when in the summer time we know the lignite field is absolutely idle. The same thing in a measure applies to our affair right now. We have all kinds of men out of work and unfortunately the majority of these men out of work are thinking first of a job to go to, and not a six-hour day. Consequently you must remember it is a matter of opinion as to if we can force a vote. I know Gompers won't like it and his kind but if we can force a vote in the labor movement in this country, it will be the finest propaganda measure you can adopt. If it can go from this convention and say "we definitely lay down a policy whereby we are going to ask all the workers of this country and if possible, America to lay down their tools for a specific purpose, and also point out in our propaganda talk that this purpose was not the panacea that was going to bring about a co-operative commonwealth, or some other thing, but that it was merely ameliorative, then we have accomplished something but it will be absolutely futile, in my opinion, despite the measuring of present circumstances as against past circumstances it is absolutely futile to declare your general strike for B. C. or the four western provinces.

Del. Grogan: I have been listening to Delegate Rees pretty closely and he uses the old time stand-pat arguments. In the first place he points out the pitiful situation of the working class and in the second place he uses the argument of the political Socialist to back up his arguments, that is to say, he uses the arguments that the Socialist propounds, that the working class are never two days ahead of their hay and oats. The organization which he represents is one of the biggest tape worm institutions on the American continent. We must bear in mind that the organizations of the working class are going to take a new color, and it is not going to move by being told to move by some international delegate. Its head is going to move it, and in order that its head moves it we have

got to take the muscle out that was put in here by the organizations, and when we take that muscle out and put some brains in, then we will get action along those lines.

Del. Sinclair (Carpenters): The organization I represent is firmly convinced on this issue which has got to come before this convention here and they agreed on May 1st. Considering the arguments put up against May 1st is that they have not the necessary machinery in order to carry it out by that date and we allowed them to go another month, but we, as I understand it, have been definitely instructed to fight for this resolution and to speak against the amendment.

Del. Wilkinson: I was present at a meeting of the Trades and Labor Council when a representative from the local Carpenters' Union which introduced this matter reported it to the Trades Council and I was struck with one significant thing he said. He made the announcement at any rate who were going out after this six-hour day and they were going to it and I think he mentioned May 1st as the date. He also explained that they were having considerable difficulty at that time or at least they were considering ways and means of preventing the men from dropping out of their organizations. In a word he reported a condition which it well known to every member of organized labor.

Now, in listening to this discussion I noticed the proposition for the six hour day comes from that element in the convention which we should regard as being the most radical and the most progressive amongst us but to me it does not seem that the six-hour day is such a miraculous thing. I am almost inclined to think that you would be much better advised to direct your propaganda efforts to the provincial and Dominion governments and to the Employers' Association. The average employer is only interested in the worker from one standpoint and that is, that provided he can get him at a proper figure in the matter of wages with a suitable standard of procedure scale, that is all he wants.

Now, the prospect at the present time is that there will be plenty of workers to go around and the average employers would be much better advised to hire men to work for six hours, than they would to hire men for eight hours, because in six hours a man's energy does not run down so much, and

his productive capacity can be made to a higher pitch by the diminution of the working days. All statistics dealing with workmen's compensation, and all statistics dealing with accidents befalling workmen in industry point to the fact that the workers' energy and power of resistance decreases as the day advances and the majority of the accidents take place during the last two hours of the working day. I do not see any reason on the top of God's earth why the average big business man should not rush to this six-hour day proposal with open arms. If it were not for the fact that his mental activities are continually occupied with only one thing and that is the mere studying of business and that outside of business he has time for nothing else, and very little sympathy for anything else. If he only studied economies in a rudimentary way, if he only took up the study of sociology in a rudimentary way he would see that this is a good proposition for him and boost for the six-hour day.

Now, let us look at it for a moment from the standpoint of a politician. The governing authorities of this country are very scared of one thing and that is that if they let the unemployed condition go to a certain extremity, which they believe it may go to, and when all the workmen who come back home from Europe are demobilized from the army, men who will, well you possibly know them, be very disruptive forces from the standpoint of social order and the government of this country, as well as of many others who are seeking some interest in this matter are wondering how they can possibly avoid what they believe to be a revolution or a near revolution, unless they can devise some means of meeting it and they would be perfectly prepared, I believe, if you can show them that this six-hour day was going to be a sufficiently reliable proposition to balance the situation, I think they would be prepared to grant a six-hour day and buy off your revolution with two hour's pay for nothing.

Delegate Pritchard: I am ready to speak to the motion, and I will do so at this time when the amendment is before the house in supporting the original motion and opposing the amendment. In the first place let me say: If that little problematical conjunction, if, if, you understand, if my grandfather had been my grandmother I might not have been here, and you

would have missed my splendid services. If the stars fall we would be wiped out, and if the boss had any time for anything other than business, and if he had sympathy for anything else but his buying of labor power, then we might educate him to understand our position, but it is a most ridiculous argument, but we can start out with the supposition that you can build any damned thing upon these premises. I can start out with the first six words of Genesis and build up all the Christian Religion upon it and prove it. I can start out with the proposition that we can educate the boss to understanding all our problems, and I can raise you a new Jerusalem in ten minutes, but the boss has no other time than the time he gives to his business and he has no other sympathy than sympathy for himself. What is the use of us trying to tell ourselves that we can go to the boss and tell him that he can buy off our revolution by giving us another two hours a day leisure. In fact as far as I am concerned we are not interested in the business of telling anybody he can buy off our revolution. We must bring it on in the first place, and when it comes the historic conditions being ripe, talk about buying it off, they could not stop it. It is not a question of buying it off.

In support of the six-hour day, the seat of the contention was given by Delegate Kavanagh. This convention of B. C. labor ought to deal with questions that affected that labor in British Columbia, but we recognize no relations with any other provinces or any other country. Let me tell you these conditions on the Vancouver waterfront during the war have been far better than the conditions in any other port on this coast. I think I can state on behalf of the street railwaymen that they enjoy as far as pay is concerned, working conditions that cannot be compared with the conditions that exist in other street railwaymen's unions in other parts of the continent. It has already been pointed out by certain delegates that there are certain conditions established according to local requirements, and under the stress of local circumstances, that have been obtained by the workers on the coast and in B. C. generally that have not yet been obtained by the workers back east and it is well known that you have a more radical and a more progressive labor movement in B. C. than you will find, we will say, in the prov-

ince of Quebec. Up until recent years, very recent years in fact, the workers' movement of B. C. from the industrial standpoint has been far in advance of the workers' movement. I will not say judging numerically but from the standpoint of your experiences as expressed from time to time has been ahead even of the workers' movement in Britain, that has up till recently been concerned only with keeping the agreements made by the boss who can break them at any time. We have proven from our experiences in the past that in certain localities, and according to certain conditions, and under certain circumstances we can force certain things, and here is a point I want to bring to the attention of this convention. It was touched upon by Delegate Kavanagh.

B. C. has supplied more men pro rata to the Canadian Expeditionary forces than any other province. B. C. has the smallest population of any province in Canada. The business man with sympathy for his business only and nothing else sees the problem of the returning soldier and he says "all right." Now, I came across an advertisement in a real estate office and it says "The war is over" in big headlines and then there was an old-time and rather ancient farmer looking at their soldier boy and it says "the war is over. Buy a farm for your son" and there was a picture of the son and the couple leaning on a stack. That is the business man's conception of settling the soldier off. Now, that might work in a farming community like Alberta but in British Columbia where a man has to make a lasso and throw the lasso on a rocky point in order to haul himself up into his garden, it is no use talking about settling the soldier on the land where he has to grub the soil between the rocks in order to grow one bushel of potatoes. There is no solution for the soldier en masse. It is a problem that must be solved individually for each soldier. They think by giving them political jobs they can solve it, or by giving them fishery rights and persuade them to go somewhere between the Arctic Circle and forget them, and they will solve their own problems. But the handling of this soldier problem is a problem for the labor movement, and it is only on this point I support the six-hour day. B. C. has the greater number of returning soldiers and the problem, therefore, for us is greater than it will be for the

other provinces and it, therefore, becomes a greater responsibility for the labor movement of B. C. to initiate any appealorative measure in this regard that can be taken. B. C. has taken the initiative in times past. It was in British Columbia we should be initiative to tell the order-in-council breed of politicians and lawyers at Ottawa when they told us we could not study scientific literature, that as far as we were concerned when they told us what we could read and what we could not read, that they could go to hell quick, and that initiative brought into being a movement throughout the whole of this country and the blanket order-in-council was immediately shouldered on one side.

I want to say this, whatever criticism we may have met, the labor movement in B. C. in the past has been in the van of progress as far as the labor movement of Canada is concerned, and I want to go on record as supporting the taking of definite steps to inaugurate the six-hour day on a certain date. I take it that pre-supposes that we will urge joint action in the movement with the other provinces, and we will see to what extent they are willing to go along with us. The other provinces in Canada are looking towards the labor movement in B. C. and at the present time from personal letters I have received from comrades in Glasgow and in Manchester, and in other sections of Britain, that insofar as they are looking to them to take certain movements at the present time, they are looking to B. C. to see what the sentiments are on the western coast of the American continent and to see what is being done here. It is not a case of any one section of the working class waiting for the other section to take action, but it is for us to state our position and if we fail in carrying this six-hour day I want to tell you, if we fail we shall have learned lessons from that failure but I do not think we shall fail.

Delegate Nixon: In speaking to Del. Rees' amendment and against the motion. Brother Pritchard has just pointed out that ifs and ands do not get us anywhere. I am not a visionary, I do not deal in visions at all or what the boss thinks of it. I deal with it on the facts as I see them in the City of Vancouver. Most of the delegates here have handled the question from their point of view as regarding the conditions in their particular miners' organization or boilermakers' and so

forth. Now, in the carpenter trade and dealing with it from that point of the six-hour day. You might look at it as you like but you are simply asking for an increase in wages. It is not the hours the boss is going to look at. He looks at it only from one standpoint and that is what it is going to cost him. You are working for as well as the six-hour day for an increase in wages. Now, you are going to work on the 1st of June, and you are going to call a strike to impose these conditions. Now dealing with the carpenter trade and the question of calling a general strike in the city of Vancouver. House building there is practically none and that brings it down to what trade is simply in the ship yards. Wooden ship yards are dying and pretty soon will be out of existence. Leave the returned soldier question out of it altogether, and it comes down simply a question of your own ranks of unemployment and union labor itself. You claim here you have established an eight-hour day. You have not. There is no eight-hour day in the City of Vancouver on the principle that as long as you can buy the ranks of union labor to work twelve, fourteen and eighteen hours a day for less than thirty pieces of silver you have not got an eight-hour day. There are men working in the City of Vancouver, ten, twelve and fourteen hours a day, and not only in the carpenter trade but in the boilermakers' or any trade where you can buy any union man in the City of Vancouver to do twenty-four hours any yet you say you have an eight-hour day. How can you have it when you can get men to go out and buy principle for money. You are up against that same element when you wish to strike for the six-hour day. Will they look at it from the standpoint for the good of organized labor? will they look at it from the standpoint of giving the other man a chance to work as well as themselves and you take the delegates as they have spoken. They look upon it, we can go to work at nine to twelve and go to work at one to four, that is a stand point that does not take into consideration the other fellow. When is he going to work his six hours. I have not heard anyone put forward. You must figure out we are going into this six-hour day for to give the other man a chance to get his loaf of bread, and something to eat as well as us. I have heard the delegates put forward the nice time

they will go to work, and the nice time of the day they will quit, but when is the other fellow going to get his part of the day in. You will have to put him on a night shift, so you have got to get down to the standpoint that you have got to cut selfishness out of the ranks of labor and consider it from the other man's point of view as well as your own, and this question of the six-hour day is to give the other man a chance to do his six hours and a chance to live. I am personally in favor of the six-hour day and I am not so much struck on work but what a two-hour day will do me if I can manage to live on that, but you must not disregard the conditions at all and we must consider the aspect not from our personal point of view at all but from the ranks of labor, as it is at the present day, and we must get them all to come out on strike, that is the only way you have of winning with your economic strength but the question is can you get them to come out on strike on the six-hour day?

Delegate Trotter: I would like to ask a question of the secretary of the executive committee. He issued a ballot to the organizations on the six-hour day and the secretary has a very large number of replies on the question. The discussion has ranged over to what will happen in British Columbia while the secretary has in his hand replies from the different organizations and, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the secretary for any information he can give relative to the correspondence on the question.

The Secretary: If you will just wait a minute while I tabulate some figures I will give you the information.

The Secretary: Information has been asked for and I may say, Mr. Chairman, that the carpenters passed a resolution for the establishment of the six-hour day on the 1st of May, and it was sent to me as secretary of the Federation. I felt that something was necessary besides the passing of the resolution, and referred it to the executive of the Federation and that in view of the fact that it was going to come before this convention that some steps should be taken to get some idea from the representatives of the different organizations as to whether they were prepared to go ahead. I felt that we should have that information at this convention, if possible, and in sending out a circular letter I asked them if they were prepared to support any

move which might be made by this convention for the establishment of a six-hour day providing such a move received the consent and approval of the members of organized labor of the province.

I realized, Mr. Chairman, there was not an awful lot of time to deal with it, perhaps a month. However, I have received in the province twenty-six replies from affiliated unions which is about twenty-five per cent. of the organizations affiliated. Those organizations, however, are the largest organizations and represent forty per cent. of the membership of the Federation. Roughly estimating the number from memory the number of affiliated members of these organizations who have replied, they represent seven thousand six hundred, and judging from the organizations' reports here that they did not get much over fifty per cent. of their party out to vote on these things, it represents the wishes of three thousand eight hundred organized workers who have passed an opinion on this question. Now, in some of the replies which have been received they state that they are prepared to assist any move to establish the six-hour day providing it is in a well organized effort, and I want to say that I suggested that this thing be referred to the western conference and I had this in mind that a well organized effort will be much more effective in establishing a six-hour day than for us to try and establish it in the province of British Columbia. However, these figures are before you, Mr. Chairman, and you can take whatever satisfaction you like out of them one way or the other.

It is very evident to me in the brief space of time in which the organizations had to deal with this question that there is a stronger feeling on the six-hour day problem in the province of British Columbia than has been presented.

Delegate Naylor: Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: Why do you rise to your feet?

Delegate Naylor: I rise to my feet to ask a question and it is an important question and it is this: I want the secretary to read all the locals he has had correspondence from.

The Secretary: The street railway men of Victoria took a referendum vote on this question and there was a vote of one hundred and forty for and sixty-eight against.

Machinists, New Westminster.

Steam Engineers, Prince Rupert.
Teamsters and Chauffeurs, Vancouver.

Piledrivers and Bridgemen, Vancouver.

Metalliferous Miners, Hedley.

Lathers' Union, Vancouver.

A. S. U. B. Carpenters, Victoria.

Railway Carmen, Victoria.

Bookbinders, Victoria.

Marine Firemen, Vancouver.

Cigar makers, Vancouver.

Longshoremen, Victoria.

U. B. Carpenters, Vancouver.

Painters, Victoria.

Garment Makers, Vancouver.

Machinists, Revelstoke.

B. C. Loggers' Union, Vancouver.

United Mine Workers, Began.

United Mine Workers, Nanaimo.

Typographical Union, Vancouver.

Carpenters, Prince Rupert.

Metalliferous Miners, Moyie.

Steam Engineers, Victoria.

Steam Engineers, Vancouver.

Cooks and Waiters, Vancouver.

Longshoremen, Vancouver.

A Delegate: Are those replies all favorable?

The Secretary: They are, with slight variations as to conditions.

A Delegate: There is no letter from the Longshoremen, Vancouver, but I may state that it was taken up at the meeting and it was unanimously endorsed, but through some oversight a letter was supposed to be forwarded to this convention, but I may state also that the thing was kind of vague, and the executive were in doubt as to what action would be taken, and until there was some concrete thing put forward they were inclined to favor a referendum.

The Chairman: The information that has been requested has been given by the secretary but of course he can only give the information that has been presented to him in the form of correspondence.

The Chairman: We are now past our adjournment time.

(A motion was passed for the extension of time until the matter in question had been disposed of).

A Delegate: Does the original resolution read "that action shall be subject to the approval of a referendum before a strike is called."

The Chairman: It is not set forth in the recommendation. No. The chair would naturally pre-suppose that the matter would necessarily have to go to the affiliated membership for an ex-

pression through a referendum. That is the position the chair takes if a decision is required.

The chair will now proceed to put the question. All in favor of the amendment as set forth by Delegate Rees, you will signify in the usual manner.

(The amendment was put to the meeting and defeated).

The Chairman: All in favor of the recommendation of the committee will signify in the usual manner.

(The motion was declared carried.)

It was decided the question should be referred to the Western Conference.

The convention then adjourned.

Tuesday Afternoon Session

(Vice-president J. Taylor presiding)

The Chairman: We will now continue with the report of the committee on resolutions.

Del. Kavanagh: Resolution number seven. This resolution is a substitute for the many resolutions submitted on the question of industrial organization. In view of the fact that here were so many covering the same point, and as no method of going about this was intimated in the resolutions, the resolutions committee adopted the following substitute for those submitted. The resolution is as follows:

"Resolved, that this convention recommend to its affiliated membership that they sever affiliation with their international organization, and that steps be taken to form an industrial organization of all workers, and;

"Be it further resolved, that a circular outlining a proposed plan of organization be sent out to the various organizations and that a referendum on the question be taken at the same time."

I move the adoption of the committee's report.

The motion was seconded by a number of the members.

The chairman: The resolution has now been moved and seconded and the matter is open for discussion. Are you ready for the question?

Del. McVety: The resolution, Mr. Chairman, is one that recommends itself to the membership. If I have listened to the reading of the resolutions committee a right, there seems to be a general complaint among the delegates as to the treatment they have received from their internationals, on various occasions, and they feel that better progress could be made by cut-

ting loose from the international union and having one big union in the province of British Columbia. The organization that I represent, the International Organization of Machinists, has had no such experience as that urged by other delegates as the reason for endorsing the resolution.

To follow the policy set out in the resolution merely means, so far as our organization is concerned, that fifteen hundred machinists in the province of British Columbia are going to cut themselves loose from an organization, one of the largest on the continent now, with over 300,000 of a membership, and an organization which has always more than met any obligations to its membership in the matter of finances or otherwise. If the locals of the machinists' organizations in Canada were to attempt to pay to the international in per capita, the amount received in strike pay and other supports for industrial movements, then they would be, I would think, fifty years from now, without any further money being sent across to this side in order to leave a balance in their favor. I say, so far as our organization is concerned, that it would be, with the very large number of workers who are migrating back and forth across the line, that it would be folly for a large proportion of that membership at least to follow the policy advocated in the resolution. Now, I have been a member of the association for twenty years and I will say that if my friend, Del. Pritchard, finds it necessary to make some insinuations, I would like to say I have yet to draw my first dollar from the International Union in any capacity whatever. During that twenty years we have been deprecating a policy of organization on national lines. Cutting out all that we know and speak of as purely Canadian unions, and endeavoring to build up a continental union on this continent under the name of the International Union. In fact our organization has gone a good deal further than that, and has, for ten years past, been accepting without initiation fee, paid-up workers in the trade from any other country—Germany, Italy, France, England and so on. A man coming from those countries, merely by depositing his card, took out at once good standing membership without payment of any fees whatever and on this continent we have gone further than that again, and we took a referendum for an

amalgamation along industrial lines of the iron trades associations or organizations—the boilermakers, blacksmiths, machinists and so on—and that vote was carried by a large majority in our own organization, but was defeated in some others. That offer still holds good so far as the international organization of machinists is concerned. I say, so far as our organization is concerned, at least, that there is nothing or no action which the international has taken or no result which has so far been shown which will not beneficially affect our membership in this country, and which would warrant supporting the resolution before the House.

Del. Wells: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question. As I take it, the resolution means a formation of one industrial organization from this province and not to organize the workers by industries. Is that correct?

The Chairman: That is correct. One industrial organization covering all lines. As I understand it, the various crafts now in existence would simply all be members of the same organization while retaining their present standing.

A Delegate: Do I take it you mean the province of British Columbia or the whole of Canada?

The Chairman: It is a working class proposition and is not restricted to any particular district.

A Delegate: Does that mean that we are severing our connection internationally as crafts?

The Chairman: If the delegate was here when the resolution was read—it reads, "That we recommend to the affiliated membership that they sever their affiliation with their international organizations, and that steps be taken to form an industrial organization of all workers and, be it further resolved, that a circular letter outlining a proposed plan of organization be sent out to the various organizations, and that a referendum on the question be taken at the same time." That is the whole point of the resolution.

A Delegate: On a point of information, Mr. Chairman. That would go by referendum also?

The Chairman: The resolution contains in its latter portion a suggestion that a circular letter outlining the proposition be sent out to the various organizations, and that a referendum be taken at the same time. The chair would take it that any resolution

which suggests such an action as this, where the convention does not form any specific plan, I would say it would be submitted in conformity with the gist of this resolution and that that would devolve upon the incoming executive.

A Delegate: Are there any other resolutions on the table proper to the organization of one industrial union and one only?

The Chairman: The chairman of the resolutions committee pointed out the number of resolutions bearing on this and said they brought one which substituted for the whole.

The Chairman of the Committee: The majority of the resolutions do not mention the internationals at all. The Kimberley Miners' Union has just gone in favor of the Canadian members drawing away from the International Smelter Workers. Another resolution stated that the craft organization has outgrown its usefulness and suggested another form. The Machinists of Vancouver, Lodge No. 777, took the position of the formation of one and one only industrial organization, including all workers. From the Prince Rupert Lodge comes the proposition which is to be submitted to the Trades and Labor Congress on the point of withdrawing from the American Federation of Labor. All these deal with the same question and the resolution, which we have submitted is substituted for the entire lot.

A Delegate: The reason I asked the question is this. The members of the association that I belong to are in favor of one, and one only, organization, and they do so only through the fact that their experiences in the past in dealing with international officers have been very unsatisfactory. We have learned through experience that when we are desirous of exercising local autonomy, desirous of exercising our rights to enforce upon our masters the legislation we feel just at the time we are hampered by the rule which makes us apply for permission to do so before we can take a strike. That permission may or may not be granted, and we have come to the conclusion that the question of whether it will be granted or not the decision either one way or the other will be dictated as it relates to the funds of the organization. And in considering it, we also took into consideration the multiplicity of organizations, namely,

the individual unions to which we all belong which are affiliated only internationally, and then through this international affiliation we have the metal trades and labor councils and then we have the other ones which arise out of certain conditions. We have come to the conclusion that owing to the multiplicity of organizations which have taken place, due to the economic conditions arising out of our international affairs, that our organizations are being hampered so that we are losing our rights, and in fact we are gradually losing the usefulness of our organizations.

The question of directly breaking away from the international has not entered into our discussions to the extent where it would be discussed sufficiently to bring out the beneficial or other interests in breaking away. We contend that if the C. Federation of Labor will put itself on record as being in favor of one union and one industrial union only, representing all trades, we will do away largely with one class distinctions in the labor movement, which, I think, has been the one factor which is holding back the progress of the labor movement. We are striving to do away with that class distinction and bring all members to one level, as they would be in one industrial organization. Now, today we are so constituted that if you take the condition where the machinists in the City of Vancouver, for instance, are desirous of going out on strike. The importance of that organization to the community at large is not of sufficient importance to create an impression on the minds of the community as a whole, and the consequence is that an organization such as the machinists is at a disadvantage.

The street railwaymen, if they go out on strike, their strike is felt at once in the community and the result is there is public interest set to work in the interest of that particular organization, so I say under the existing condition of affairs one organization is placed in a far better position than others.

Now, in the merging of all these interests one class would not have any preference over the other. We are trying to bring about a unity of interests and that is why our organization, as a body, has decided to carry on a propaganda among its own members for the formation of one industrial organization, including all crafts.

Del. Wells: I would like to ask another question, Mr. Chairman. When the resolutions were introduced there were resolutions dealing with the interchange of cards, open books and a uniform initiation fee, as well as some other matters in connection with our organization. Has the resolutions committee any intention of dealing with these resolutions in case the membership do not accept the proposal as laid down by it?

The Chairman of the Committee: It will all depend on the stand taken by the convention on this particular resolution. If this resolution is carried by the convention and referred to its affiliated membership, then the other questions are no longer necessary, because if we form one and one only organization these other questions will not come up. If, however, this is not accepted by the convention, then the resolutions committee will, of necessity, deal with the resolution concerning the interchange of working cards, the minimum standard initiation fee, and such questions as that, but it all depends upon the particular action taken upon this resolution.

Del. Wells: That does not answer my question. I recognize that if this convention could decide as to whether the organization should take this action your position would be perfectly correct, but in view of the fact that this convention can decide nothing, except endorse the proposal of submitting it to the unions, then what is going to happen in the meantime.

The Chairman of the Committee: If I might answer further, I might say this. There are a considerable number of resolutions which have not been considered by the resolutions committee owing to the resolution defining the policy of the Federation being brought up, but they have been left over owing to the fact that they are not contentious resolutions, and they are being left over to be placed in the hands of the new executive so that they might act in the same old manner with them, providing this one does not meet with the approval of the unions. The other questions being also questions which have been before the convention often before then it was felt by the resolutions committee that these could safely be left until it was found out by the executive as to whether these particular steps now taken were in accordance with the views of the members or not, and if

it was found they were not, then the executive of necessity would be compelled to put into operation such particular measures of propaganda, and such particular measures of bringing to the attention of the government certain things desired in the same way as they have in the past, but we considered as these things were not contentious there was no reason for discussing them at this convention, because this is a resolution intended to change the policy of the organization, and if the policy is not changed, then the executive will have to deal with these other questions as they have always done in the past.

Secretary Wells: I wanted to get that. I wanted to be in a position to know whether the hands of the incoming executive were to be tied in reference to any other matters which might come up if this was defeated. So long as the incoming executive's hands are free to carry on propaganda along other lines, providing this does not meet with the approval of the membership, then I am satisfied.

A Delegate: You have just explained now that if certain things did not happen in this convention then the old-time policy is to be adopted. Did not we in this convention revolutionize the old-time policy and decide that we are not going to send our representatives to the government?

Chairman Kavanagh: I said if the membership did not authorize the change in policy then the executive would have to follow the old-time policy. The executive will be governed by the membership vote in these matters. If the membership says "We want the change," then the executive will be governed by that, and if they say "not" then the executive will have to go on.

The Chairman: I would like to point out that the resolution changing the policy is in the hands of the committee on constitution and before this convention adjourns this committee will have to submit an amended constitution to meet the policy as outlined in that resolution; then that will have to be in turn submitted to the members of the organization so that you see the whole thing hinges upon the rank and file in the last analysis.

Del. Cottrell: Mr. Chairman, there are undoubtedly many good points in the resolution, but at the same time I do not feel convinced that we can go ahead along these lines just yet. I

feel that some organizations or a great many of them cannot afford to throw over their international affiliation right away. There are so many things that are coming between them. There is insurance and one thing and another such as defence funds. Now, before an organization or a local can afford to throw that over they must have something in its place. I know, so far as our organization is concerned, I would not feel like recommending to them that they throw over their affiliation with the international and proceed to form another one. My idea is that we can make some recommendation to the trades councils and bodies of that sort, and get these councils to act in the matter. We can endorse the idea embodied in the resolution, but what it needs is, first of all, in my mind, to get from the different locals data as to what amount of per capita tax they are paying to their international, what benefits they receive from that international, and so on, and then the question of what you are going to put in its place would be the big one, and until you know just exactly what that international represents to the locals you can hardly go ahead with the proposition and throw over your international organization with safety.

Del. Casey: As the delegate from Prince Rupert who has presented a resolution upon this line of action, I believe it behooves me to outline what we conceived would be a feasible working scheme at the time that we initiated this particular resolution. Now, the particular resolution emanating from Prince Rupert, and, Mr. Chairman, I may be out of order in dealing with it, as the resolution before the House for discussion is the resolution submitted by the resolutions committee, but if I might, I would like to briefly outline the provisions of the Prince Rupert resolution.

The Prince Rupert resolution dealt with the severing of connection with the international as they now exist, and bringing about the development of a national industrial organization in lieu thereof. The line of action outlined for that particular resolution was that it first be taken up in the B. C. Federation Convention, and if approved by this particular assembly, that it then be submitted to the Western Conference, then it be submitted to the Trades Congress of Canada for its approval, and if approved there, then it be submitted to the entire member-

ship of the affiliated locals in the Dominion of Canada for their approval or disapproval.

My line of thought, worked out a scheme where it would not involve the breaking up of unions, but it would, if it was found favorable by these various assemblies, necessarily develop a movement, and yet at the same time it would hold together the working organizations intact.

I myself do believe still that that resolution probably offers the best working basis for to bring about this change after all. However, upon this other point as recommended by the resolution before the House now, it is a resolution that takes quick and sudden action. We now go back and we recommend to our locals that they discontinue their affiliation with the international, and pass judgment upon a policy which will be submitted to them from the executive, giving the foundation of an industrial organization to take the place of the now existing international. That in itself I believe will be largely supported by a number, and on the other hand it may not be supported. That in itself may leave room for the working forces even in British Columbia. It is a big question and, to my mind it is one which needs to be dealt with with caution. This convention, by virtue of passing upon the point, does not necessarily dispose of the matter or complete the task. The real task yet lies to be completed by the affiliated membership and I say that we do not want to put too sudden a jolt up to the affiliated membership and expect to get through with it, if we are really desirous of achieving success out of our undertaking.

We are not free to act nationally or internationally. We want to be in a position where we can consider things from crafts' standpoint only, and as it is at present none of these internationals recognize the working card. It is a physical impossibility to bring about the change of cards in this system, and it is an impossibility for the working man in Canada at present to bring about a national action upon any particular question no matter how grave that question may be. You had a concrete instance of that when the working classes of Canada considered the matter of calling a general strike in protest against the importation of coolie labor. You were informed by Mr. Draper, the secretary, that the Trades Congress of Canada had no

power to call a general strike no matter what the grievance might be, that that power rested with the internationals. Well, these internationals have no one head at any one place; they have a number of heads separated and distributed all over the United States and, as I see it, our present form of internationality, our present form of an international system, is out of date and needs abolishing, but the point that concerns us now is to bring about a harmonious revolution or reversal of policy without creating universal antagonism on the part of the workers. That is the big problem which I think confronts the workers. I believe they are all agreeable to the change but they all view the point as quite a task of accomplishing the end and not destroying the organization or organized body of union labor as a whole.

Del. Trotter: Mr. Chairman, I believe that the resolutions committee have one or two resolutions there dealing with industrial unionism which will have a much better chance of passing this convention than the substitute which they have submitted. The term "industrial unionism," so far as I can discover from some of the people who have put in the resolutions, does not mean exactly what this substituted resolution means. They who presented these other resolutions were seeking what they considered to be industrial unionism, or unionism by industries, which were more nearly affiliated and not all industries without regard to what they were. They were seeking affiliations of industries which were lying close to each other which really operate as one industry, while under our present system their crafts hold them apart. The best illustration I can give of what I am driving at is my own organization.

We have in the printing trade five distinct international unions and yet, in any printing establishment of any size, you will have the members of all these five international unions operating under the one boss, and under one group. That style of craft organization served its purpose for a long while. The fact that it has outlived its usefulness at the present time is evident by these crafts taking steps themselves which will eventually bring about an organization of these same crafts. A redistribution, if you like to put it that way, of all organizations into one. The fight against the

international jurisdiction in a lot of these organizations is showing itself in the formation of district conferences, and up and down the Pacific Coast you have your Northwest Conference of different organizations operating without the goodwill, although, perforce, with the sanction of the international union. The international organizations as represented by their heads in the international headquarters very strongly disapprove of these district organizations because these district organizations generally prove to be rebellious organizations and composed of people who are opposing international unions in some form or other. Now, so far as the printing trades are concerned on the Pacific Coast, we have not only the Northwest Conference of Typographical Union and Printing Pressmen, and others, but we have the Northwest Printing Trades Conference, which combines all the conferences of the Northwest bodies which has decided to meet at one place only. These different ones all meet at one place and the latter portion of the week they meet in one conference as the Northwest Printing Trade Conference, and this alone is bringing together these organizations and will produce, I believe, a measure of industrial unionism, and I feel the different crafts need to be brought together in that way and that would be, I feel, the first step towards the larger idea of industrial unionism. However, to accomplish this you are going to have a whole host of difficulties bristling up. What hope can you have of organizing one big union which will include all these organizations, when in the more nearly affiliated crafts now operating under one roof, and rubbing shoulders with each other, you have not worked it out? Take the shipyard. You have in the shipyard a whole pile of international unions operating inside that shipyard, which is an analogy along the lines of the printing trades. They are within one fence at least, and even there you have not got that measure of industrial unionism which we are now advocating. Now, then, how are you going to form one big united body enthused with the idea of having one big union, when you have not got, even in a small way, that industrial unionism which you are seeking?

Delegate Kavanagh: The resolution submitted by the resolutions committee as has been stated was a substitute for many submitted by other organiza-

tions and we have taken further notice that since this organization has been formed resolutions have been passed at every convention favoring industrial unionism, and never yet has there been any attempt to put such a thing into operation. Now, it is all right to say we favor industrial unionism and recommend it to the membership, but you have to suggest a starting point and you cannot form an industrial organization while there is the international affiliation, and while the international per capita tax is being sent to the United States, and be it further noticed, that during the past few months we have noticed how the international functioned when any trouble takes place where the workers take things into their own hands.

In the Seattle strike the international longshoremen decided in view of the fact that the metal trades' union had promised that they would stand by the longshoremen, the longshoremen in return felt the only thing they could do was to stand by the metal trades when their time came. They decided to join the international longshoremen's association, through its president notified these men that not only would they forbid them to go out but they would cancel their charter if they did, and furthermore, that they severed the alliance which had taken place between them and another body and then split that up into two parts. That is the function of one international organization amongst others. It was a change granted to the reptile press. Where a system of organization by industry has been attempted you must recollect this, presuming the printers and all the printers were in one organization, it is true they have a printers' council, and yet there is not an organization I suppose on the face of the earth which is continually asking for the support of other organizations more than the printers themselves. Therefore, it shows that it is absolutely useless without the support of the workers outside, and when you speak of industrial organizations you do not mean little industries here and there, we do not mean the metal trades' council as constituted of the workers in a ship yard. They cannot do anything alone, following that course we are simply reverting back to the older larger crafts. You might recollect this, that in the past history of unions, for instance, there was only a builder in the building trade, but later on in that

particular line, various crafts were formed, and many internationals sprung up as a result, and that being the case we have come to the conclusion, that inasmuch as industrial organization has been urged for these many years, and as it is again urged at this convention, we feel that it should be pointed out to the membership that before you can start talking about organized industries, on what is really an industrial scale all the working class organizations, then they must sever the connection with the particular organization which keeps them divided into crafts. That you must sever yourself completely, and then form again, forming a new centre from which you might direct your efforts.

Delegate Roberts: I might say that some of the delegates here are of the opinion that by getting the small crafts together it would be a kind of industrial organization. I cannot see now it would be. I have another idea entirely about industrial organization. If we admit that by having them consolidated together in one room we gain strength, you certainly would have a greater strength by having all in an organization, one organization for Canada, but we have to have some starting point. We have to have a starting point somewhere, and we feel that the time for industrial organization in British Columbia has come, and I might say for my own organization we are sick and tired of the international.

In British Columbia there are about eighty thousand miners and about two thousand are organized. Now, if we are going to wait for the international to come and organize us we shall have to wait for the next twenty years. During the war was the best time for organization, but now the war is over, and they are still unorganized. It is not only the miners but all the others are just the same. See what the international done with the coal miners when District 18 was on strike. They absolutely refused to give them any assistance, and left them to fight by themselves in 1917. They had to fight that out alone. What is the use of an international being in existence if they are going to leave us to fight alone. The fact is we are supporting the international officer for the machinists, the miners, the loggers and everything else. Now, we would do away with all these officers by having one industrial organization, and we will have only one executive to handle the whole thing,

so that it is a whole lot cheaper for us and more effective than by having these craft organizations as we have today. As it is, one of them goes out on strike today and the other is working, one is scabbing on the other. Just as we had it when the coal miners were on strike. The other miners in the United States were working and shipping coal from there. If we were all together we could stop the whole thing together, and I think it is to the best interests of the British Columbia workers that this resolution go through.

Delegate Rees: Mr. Chairman, this is a very interesting resolution and certainly has some merits to it. There has been considerable discussion in British Columbia, particularly as to the advisability of severing their connection from the international organization, so much so that I believe the time has come when a vote should be taken, whether we want to keep our affiliation with this organization or whether we want to sever it. However, it is well when sizing up the question that there be no misrepresentation and I am sure my friend, Brother Roberts, would not make any representation which he did not think was proper. However, I would like to correct his statement about district 18.

The officers are here in Calgary, and they can substantiate my statements. Here was the situation. The international told them to do certain things and they absolutely refused, and the international association told them "if you do these things you will get from us what other districts have got" and they said in common parlance "to hell with you, keep your hands off," and they did. District 18 has profited by that experience and less than three weeks ago they said they would not take action now until such time as the international union decided what action should be taken. Also let us go back and look at Nova Scotia. I know more about the miners of course.

We had an international organization in Nova Scotia, we had a provincial workers' organization, but you will find some years ago that Nova Scotia mine workers took a vote as to whether or not they would affiliate with the international mine workers' union, and ninety-eight and a half per cent of the mine workers of Nova Scotia voted to affiliate, and just recently they have been affiliated but regardless of all these facts I say, I repeat what I said before that there has been so much

discussion about the international being a bug bear that it is as well we understand, that the rank and file understand, whether it is wise that we stay with them and for that reason I think the vote should be taken.

Delegate Wood: I might state the substitute bears with it the wishes of the members of local 28 and that has been their contention ever since they have been reorganized and by voting in favor of the resolution I am carrying out the wishes of the members in general.

A Delegate: The international organization of the local which I represent here today recently made a move, the only move I have known them to make for some time. They moved the salaries up several notches and made it retrospective. (Laughter.) The teamsters' organization which I represent pay the regular per capita tax and the sum totals of returns we get for it is a little magazine, which glorifies Sam Gompers and all the rest that goes along with him. The great trouble that some of the delegates have in mind in speaking to this question is that they do not seem to understand the matter of the per capita taxes. Delegate Rees speaks about the amount of money which has been paid into Canada at the time of strikes. It is true there are several international organizations which pay larger sums of money into Canadian organizations than they have received from the Canadian membership, or will receive for some years to come, but that money did not come from the international, it came from the membership of the organization.

Secretary Wells: It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that the delegates who have dealt with this question have not been dealing with the merits of the resolution, and the advantages to be gained by the forming of an industrial organization, but rather are contented with kicking the international officers, and objecting to the way the per capita taxes are spent. There has been a change in the conditions which have formed the organizations and made it possible for those organizations to be formed, and it is these changed conditions which are making our organizations take a stand now for industrial union instead of craft organizations. We find that the worker today is losing his craft skill, and the workers are becoming more and more like common laborers. The old time mechanic is no longer the king of labor that he used

to be, and as a result of that, our craft distinctions are breaking down, and it is because of that breaking down of craft distinction that we find the agitation for industrial organization. The question of per capita taxes to my mind does not even enter into the question.

Delegate Allman: Mr. Chairman, I have listened to the delegates with a great deal of pleasure and interest and it is my first time at a convention of this kind or any other kind practically, and I must say that I have learned more of the inner workings of the international union than I ever read about from other sources before, and it is a wonder to me that the internationals have stood so long. In talking to the resolution it appears to be it is the principle of the resolution which we wish to adopt and that is a form of industrial unionism. Now, it is not going to be a whole big one industry so far as the resolutions read but we are going to reorganize the present form of local unions into their respective industries. Now, speaking for the loggers which was only organized here recently, how would we look if we said we were going to start out after the hook-tenders in that particular industry, and formed them into one union, and then we are going to form another branch of the engineers in that industry, and then we are going to form another branch of the firemen, and each have their own respective officers. We would not have got the great numbers which we have now. The delegates state we have about eight hundred. I think if Delegate Midgley had been more closely connected, he would have found out we are over two thousand and still growing, for the simple reason that we took the stand of industrial unionism. We are taking everybody in the lumber industry into that organization whether he is a fireman, a cook or no matter what he is so long as he is in the lumber industry and he just pays the one initiation fee and no more.

Delegate Naylor: Mr. Chairman, if the interpretation of this motion has been put on record by this last speaker I would say it is no use to me either in committee or as committee to go and voice my sentiments in favor of an industrial union because we have already got one.

The Chairman: Is that a question to the chair?

Delegate Naylor: No, but I think that is not what the resolution means.

The resolution means, to my mind, that it is a real industrial union. If not, then I have no business to speak on it in any way, shape or form because we have already got what this brother thinks we should have.

The Chairman: If you will pardon me for a motion I will ask the chairman to state just what the resolution means.

Mr. Kavanagh: My idea of the situation is not to organize by industry as for example, the metal trades or the loggers to themselves. It is to organize into one big organization comprising all workers. That is the form of organization that is contemplated I think. To organize by industry, is no further than we are at the present time. The idea behind this is an industrial organization of all workers, not into crafts, not into industries, but into one big organization, that is the idea behind this resolution.

Delegate Naylor: Well, Mr. Chairman, speaking on behalf of the united mine workers of America we have happened to be in the position of one of the receivers of the grand donation from the States. We have received finances from the miners of the United States, not from the international organization, to finance a strike, a big strike, they financed us liberally and we have to thank them at all times for the million and a quarter dollars, which they sent us, but on the other hand while that money was coming, I want to point out to the delegates here just for their information, just for propaganda and for an understanding of it, that while that money was coming on to Vancouver Island, there were letters coming all the time criticising one of our members, all the time letters were being sent attacking this man because he was promoting the strike on Vancouver Island. That is the way the international works.

Delegate Watchman: Delegate McVety has pointed out what is confronting us in the organization of labor. We have had international organizations, we have had religious organizations, and we still have our religious organizations, and I refer particularly now to the province of Quebec. We have tried by all manner of means to fight down and abolish the international organization. I do agree at this time and I have given some thought, and some consideration to the formation of the entire labor movement, throughout the labor world, I have given some thought

of what is the best kind of organization to get what we require. I feel as I say that we should get together more than we are now. When we learned that the British labor has gone on record as on the question of appointing five members with mandatory powers to compel organizations to get together. We see a little trend of the idea which is prevailing throughout the world. I want to point out in relation to our own organization we have all kinds of craft men, shipwrights, joiners, and then we have carpenters, and in every city in the Dominion we have at least from three to seven, and some places eight different local unions of the same particular craft. You will realize with organizations of that kind it is absolutely necessary to try if possible and create harmony inside of our own organizations, and also to create harmony with the other organizations, and the only nation that I have been able to see who has an organization which can function, and function much more clearly, and much more rapidly than any other nation on the face of the earth, while possible it is not patriotic to mention Germany at the present time, but I do feel that in the German labor movement they have the ideal condition, and can move in their respective districts much quicker than they can do on the American continent.

Delegate Kavanagh has referred to the Seattle situation, the organizations there put in about twenty thousand dollars which was about the limit of its finances, and I want to say with the epidemic which has prevailed a short time ago, they are practically broke. That, of course, is based on their financial position and I say I have always been opposed to an organization basing its fighting proclivity on its finances. I realize of course the importance of doing so but I have never made fetish of any organization. I belonged to the carpenters in Scotland, and transferred to the amalgamated in this country, and later changed into the united brotherhood of Canada, and I say whenever I can see an organization which will accomplish something to my mind and can accomplish it better than the present organization I am in, then I am going to get into that organization, and it will not need any resolution to be presented to this convention or any other convention to make me to do so. If the intended purpose of this resolution at this time, if the ideals of the I. W. W. cover the desire of

this committee, then I say it would be much better to get out and say so and say so frankly, so that we would realize just where we are at, and not put up another kind of industrial organization which, after all, is simply a speculation at this time.

Delegate Moore: Mr. Chairman, in speaking in favor of the resolution, I may say that our organization has come to the conclusion that we should substitute something in the place of what we have got. We have been instructed to vote in favor of industrial unionism.

Delegate McDougall: So far as the electrical workers are concerned, they have severed their connections a long time ago, only so far as per capita taxes are concerned. The only trouble we have is keeping the international organization and international officers out of our jurisdiction. We can get along well enough without them, that has been our position since 1912. In speaking to our brother from the loggers, his form of organization has been, the electrical workers have had that in operation since 1912. I believe them to be the pioneers of the industrial organizations in British Columbia. They have taken in all everything in the way of an electrical worker, and they are getting along very nicely, but still with all that I can see there is a chance of helping other organizations out and it is, therefore, for that reason that I am supporting the resolution.

Delegate Chrisholm: This, as I understand it is an expression of the rank and file of their ideas along this line. The principal reason why I should support it is, the international organizations are principally engaged, and principally interested, in forming a great big barrier, or a great big fence around their own particular organization, and all their efforts whether through their organizers, or through the executive officers, are particularly along the lines of heightening the height of this fence, which consequently widens the breach of the different sections of labor. This started as a result of the capitalistic system, but not being so progressive as the capitalists it has not kept pace with it, and now the result is that the capitalists are well organized industrially and they have left trade unionism far behind.

Delegate Montgomery: I might say I got a mandate from the organization which I represent here, to support this motion and when they discussed this

motion they discussed it on its merits, and the question was whether it was good or not, but it has come down here largely to a villification of the different craft organizations and so forth to a certain extent. This is reconstruction and when you are reconstructing somebody is going to suffer, and I have much sympathy for those who are going to suffer. The old time craft unionism which has built up the organizations and paid heavily to them will suffer undoubtedly by this action. It is, however, brought about by conditions or revolutions which are compelling these actions to be taken. The rascals and fleas or what I would term the roughnecks, to which organization I belong today, it is them that have become the rapid movers.

Delegate Sully: Mr. Chairman, I wish to state that I am a Home Ruler, I have been for a good many years. I am a little surprised this afternoon to hear the converts which have been made with regard to the international. I can recollect back only a few years ago when there were some members in Vancouver in the movement who had a pretty warm time, because they would not affiliate with the international, but I suppose, Mr. President, it is only a mule who will not change his opinion, and I am agreeably disappointed at this time to discover that there are less mules in this convention than I had any idea of. (Laughter.)

Delegate Taylor: Mr. Chairman, and fellow delegates, I propose to look at the proposition purely from its merits. I have no particular feeling towards Sam Gompers. I realize, of course, if this resolution is followed out to its logical conclusion that Sam Gompers will proceed to call the rest of his delegates together and proceed to oblivion. I am not interested in that, except insofar as it would affect the change we desire to accomplish. The way I look upon the subject matter is this. What will be the viewpoint of our members, and to some extent in looking over our membership we know, that one or two things will present themselves to their minds.

One of the chief things that will stand in the way, no doubt, is that certain meal tickets undoubtedly would be cut off.

Now, it has been said and it is true that a great many of us are grown to look upon the effect of this from the viewpoint of our particular organization. That is absolutely true and while

we may attempt to take a broad view, yet we must remember that the chief thing which interests the men whom we are here today represents is their job. Their job means to them food, clothing and shelter, and that being so, the first question the members are going to ask themselves on this question is, "what will be the effect of the following out of the resolution to its logical conclusion?" and in respect to my own organization, I want to say it will be one in which they will be very vitally interested. The strength of the longshoremen's organization lies in the fact that the ship must move from port to port. In British Columbia we have a membership which I think is pretty progressive, and that will be one of the questions which they are going to ask themselves, "what will be the effect of this upon the membership to the south of us?" and while I have not got very much respect for the A. F. of L. and all it stands for, yet I would be foolish to forget for a moment that they have a powerful organization, and have powerful machinery, and that machinery would be liable to be against us, and do not let us lose sight of this fact, that if we desire to so handle this thing, that it will impress all the workers in the world, but we propose to start close at hand by spreading the gospel out into the highways and byways of our own province, and Washington to the south of us and so on.

One of the questions I want to ask the chairman of the committee who is going to close the debate is this: Has the committee considered the question of spreading the gospel amongst our neighbors so to speak because I am of this opinion that the recent happenings in the City of Washington as set forth in the strike over there, have not been without its effects. You possibly have got as many disgruntled men over there at the present time against the international, as it is at present organized, as you have on this side, and I think you have a pretty ripe field there just now to get in and get busy and, therefore, I would ask the chairman of the committee to answer that question if he can. I would like him to answer it if they have considered it from that particular standpoint.

And in conclusion I want to say this that if you are going to get anywhere, on this it may be a repetition of what Delegate Naylor said, it is because every mother's son of you are

going to go out and go up and down the line and talk this thing to your other fellows, not only talk this resolution but every other resolution of a similar character. The bad feature which I have found in the trades' unionism is a tendency for you to sit back and let George do it. You all know that this is true of your own locals. So long as George does it, it is all right, and then when something comes along and it doesn't suit you, you say, "what in the hell is the matter with George?"

(Chairman Kavanagh: Mr. Chairman, I would answer the question put forward by the chairman first. In the committee it was understood that the line of demarcation on this continent runs along the Rocky Mountains' district, that is, the workers are separated by a line of mountains and any movement in British Columbia must work along the Pacific Coast if it is to be effective. That was understood in the committee because the question as raised had the words "Dominion of Canada" and those words were struck out because of that particular fact being brought forward at the time. Now, Mr. Chairman, there has been a lot of discussion about international officers an so forth, which discussion is not really vital to the matter before us. This must be understood, a trade union movement functioned in the time when trade union movements were affected, and continuing to function down to the present time, but we have been through four years and a half of intensive production. We have been through four years and a half of time, when men and women have been taken from unskilled industries, and put bodily into the different industries and become skilled workers in a very short time. The changes have been so rapid that one man today may claim that he is a mechanic in seven or eight different industries, he has changed about so much, and we have come to this stage, the close of the war has found that the competition, which was the cause of it, has intensified today greater than it was before, that already in the reconstruction progress they are considering the building up of greater productive forces in order that they may compete with other nations.

One of the proposals which they have is that they must produce cheaper. Now, insofar as they are organized on a more gigantic scale than they were before, and inasmuch as the firms or

organizations which were in existence prior to that time are no longer able to cope with the situation as it is now, the needs of the workers demand that closer affiliation, a greater solidarity should be in existence than what was here before. I say industrial unionism of all organizations are no more than their inner policy dictates. This idea of industrial organization is coming today to a focus, and I imagine whoever gets elected to the executive from this convention, has sufficient intelligence to know what plan can be formed for such an organization as we suggest. It is a system of growth, and has come out of the conditions to which the working man has been subjected up to the present time. Workers are no longer satisfied with acting as crafts because they feel it does not protect their interests sufficiently. They must have closer affiliation one with the other. There must be greater consolidation, so that they can act quicker and finish their struggle quicker. We have learned one thing, if nothing else, and that is that a strike which goes over two weeks is beaten, and that if you want action you have to bring all the pressure you can bring to bear to force the employer to his knees in the shortest space of time. Mark you well, while you are stopping all their industries at once, and while you starve we also put them in the place where their source of profit is cut off, and that affects all of them, and mark you this, if we get action to such a scale that we can close down the entire industries of a particular point, they starve too, don't you forget that, and they feel their starvation quicker than we do because we are used to it and they are not. The question is that the old organization does not serve the purpose now, a new form is needed. It is proposed to ask them to break away and come into a new industrial form of organization, whereby they can get closer affiliation one to the other. It might, mark you remove a lot of the objections that some people have to the resolution if the first portion of it was split. That is to say if the portion were off, where we recommend to our affiliated membership that they sever their connection with their international organization, and suggest that they form another industrial organization, but I want to point out to those people that we have all our cards on the table. I do not see any sense in doing anything which could possibly

camouflage the situation. They are asking us to take a certain step. If it were divided, mark you, and they took steps to form an industrial organization, they couldn't do so because their constitutions prevent them, and before they could attempt to do so they would of necessity have to throw over their constitution, and put it in the discard, and sever their connection whether they liked it or whether they did not, so you may as well point out to them in the first instance that to form an industrial organization, it becomes necessary to sever the international organization, it becomes necessary to sever the international affiliation. If they do not like it, they will turn it down and if they do, they will accept it.

With this given to them they can judge intelligently for themselves the position which is before them and vote intelligently on the proposition put before them.

The Chairman: Are you ready for the question?

Members: Question.

The Chairman: The question before the house is the adoption of the committee's report in the substituted resolution as submitted. Are you ready for the question?

Members: Question.

(The motion was put and carried unanimously with applause.)

Delegate Rees: My understanding of the action which we have taken is that prior to organizing ourselves we sever our connection with the affiliation.

Delegate Kavanagh: No, the vote is taken first, and then if they vote favorably it would be, my understanding is this. The vote will be taken and the vote returned of the membership and then the executive will act as the vote says.

Delegate Rees: That was not on the line with your arguments.

Delegate Kavanagh: Of course the man that draws a thing understands it better than the man that reads it. It is written as he thinks and as I understand it, it was just that a recommendation of the plan for a proposed formation be sent to the organizations, and they vote upon the proposition and then they send the report of the vote back to that executive, when it is finished, who will then compile the result and this would be the work of the incoming executive, unless some further action be taken by this convention.

Del. Rees: I want the delegates to

understand and I want to understand myself, the first part of this resolution. There were two parts to the resolution. I whispered in Delegate Kavanagh's ear and he replied to me without me asking from the floor about dividing the resolution. The first part recommends rather the breaking away from the international but as I see it now the executive will be instructed that they must not secede until a vote is taken.

The Chairman: That will be clearly pointed out that this is only a plan for taking a vote.

The Chairman: The next resolution.

Mr. Kavanagh: The next is resolution number 8. The committee were not in favor of the resolution as it was submitted quite in its form and they amended it as follows:

"Whereas, The interests of returned soldiers and other workers are identical, and

Whereas, There is at present much misunderstanding as to the aims and ideals of soldiers and other workers, and

Whereas, If they were to meet and discuss each other's problems together, both classes would get better results.

Amend: That we favor the formation of joint committees from soldiers' organizations and central bodies and federations of labor."

We did not see that the motion as first presented would suit and would meet the conditions and we thought the amendment favoring the formation of joint committees from soldiers' organizations and central bodies and federations of labor, would suit the purpose and be more workable than the resolution presented first. Therefore, I move the adoption of the resolution as amended.

(The motion was seconded in a number of places.)

The Chairman: All in favor of the recommendation by the committee?

(The motion was then put and carried unanimously.)

Delegate Kavanagh: Mr. Chairman, I move that all the resolutions up until now be brought up at the western conference to be held here, beginning on Thursday.

Delegate Bradstock: Mr. Chairman, I second that motion.

(The motion was put and carried unanimously.)

Chairman Kavanagh: Mr. Chairman, the electrical workers of Vancouver have presented a resolution here and

have asked for our endorsement. I move that we endorse the proposed act as submitted to this federation. (The motion was seconded).

(The motion was then put and carried unanimously.)

Delegate Kavanagh: Mr. Chairman, there are a number of resolutions which contain non-contentious matter and they, therefore, need no discussion so I move that these be referred to the incoming executive and they will act accordingly to the wishes therein contained.

Delegate Trotter: I want to ask a question in view of the passing of the last resolution in support of the electrical workers, what position the convention now finds itself in. The electrical workers rise and suggest that a courier be sent to John Oliver. Now, we have decided that no more deputations should be sent to the government and now we have just decided, Mr. Chairman, to send one. What position does the convention now find itself in?

The Chairman: The position of these resolutions and the position of the executive to them is just this: That in the event of the rank and file of the British Columbia Federation of Labor refusing to endorse the policy suggested by this convention then the executive will take the action which has been taken as the outcome of former conventions. If, on the other hand, the entire policy of the federation is changed then the executive will probably use them to decorate their offices to remind them of the times that used to be.

Secretary Wells: Mr. Chairman, there are a number of resolutions dealing with the workmen's compensation act. Are they to be dealt with in the same manner?

The Chairman: No, we will finish with the committee on resolutions before we go any further. Is there a seconder to Delegate Kavanagh's motion.

(The motion was then seconded and put to the meeting and carried unanimously.)

The Chairman: Are those all your resolutions?

Delegate Kavanagh: Yes.

Delegate Phillips: Mr. Chairman, there is one resolution there asking the support of this federation to the local union obtaining an inquiry into the number three mine Coal Creek explosion. I think that would not come un-

der these general resolutions, that were announced by the chairman of the resolutions committee. We are simply asking that an act of justice be meted out to John Munns, et al. Somebody ought to be placed behind the bars for the condition that existed in that mine prior to the explosion of April 5th. I have the report of the inspector of mines here, where it states "the damnable condition of the mine previous to the explosion." I think that resolution ought not to have gone under the category that the chairman of resolutions has given to the other resolutions.

Delegate Kavanagh: Mr. Chairman, I would just point out this. The resolution the delegate refers to is one that asks the government to institute an inquiry into a certain happening because of certain conditions connected therewith. I wish, Mr. Chairman, to point out that we have been advocating that the greatest good could be accomplished by the use of our industrial strength to enforce anything which we felt needed doing, and I might point out also, that if at the time of this accident the miners of that district were not satisfied that justice had been done in the case, though justice is a much misused word, that justice had been done in the case then the greatest object could have been achieved by their refusing to return to work in that particular mine until some satisfaction had been gotten out of the mine operators.

Delegate Phillips: They did, but there is a greater force at work than even our local union. We have endeavored to the very limit of our forces and power to force this inquiry. Honest John and Mr. Sloan have repeatedly promised this inquiry, but the forces we have to contend with down there, that is the Liberal executive down in Fernie which is a machine of the coal company, has up to date successfully foiled us. They have denied us this inquiry, and we have come in here to ask the aid of this convention in helping us along in forcing this inquiry anyway, because John Munns is calling for justice to be done on those who have murdered them. That is all there is to it.

Delegate Rees: I agree with the chairman of the resolutions committee that the resolution should be handed over to the executive and in view of that fact I want to offer a motion that we wire the government from this convention, asking them to institute an inquiry into the accidents at Fernie

and Nanaimo, and while it may not have any good result, it will fulfil what Del. Kavanagh speaks of as propaganda and which I also consider very necessary. Mr. Chairman, if I am in order, I would like to put that motion before the convention. It can be put into proper wording afterwards.

The Chairman: After the question before the house has been decided, there would not be any particular objection on the part of the convention to the course outlined. The question before the house is the adoption of the report of the resolutions committee. All in favor of the motion. (The motion was put and carried unanimously.)

Del. Rees: Mr. Chairman, I would now like to offer you a motion. That our executive this evening wire the government of the Province of British Columbia, voicing the demand of this convention, that an inquiry be held into the explosion at No. 3 mine, Coal Creek, and also the cage accident at Nanaimo, with a view of having a most rigid investigation in connection with these accidents.

Del. Naylor: Mr. Chairman, I would second that motion.

The Chairman: I will ask the secretary now to read the resolution as it stands.

The Secretary: "Moved by Mr. Rees and seconded by Mr. Naylor that our executive this evening wire the government voicing the demand of this convention that an inquiry be held into the explosion at number three mine, Coal Creek and also the cage accident at Nanaimo with a view of having a most rigid investigation in connection with these accidents and failing compliance with this demand the executive committee to circularize the affiliated membership with a view to obtaining the desired inquiry."

(The motion was then put and carried unanimously.)

Delegate McDougall: I move we now adjourn to meet at seven thirty this evening.

Delegate Pritchard: I second the motion.

(The motion was put and carried and the meeting adjourned accordingly.)

Tuesday Evening Sitting 7:30—11th Inst.

Delegate McDonnell: I have been asked to raise a point of order here in regard this meeting. At the commencement of the session of this convention it was a rule of procedure laid

down and it was understood that there were to be the accepted rules of the convention, viz: That the morning sitting be from 9 to 12 p. m., and the other meeting from 2 to 5 for the calling of these meetings. Now there has been no two-thirds majority for the suspension of the ruling. I would like to have your ruling Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: The vote taken on the motion to adjourn to reconvene at 7:30 required, as has been stated, a two-thirds majority voting in order to carry it. The votes as registered through a show of hands, showed 42 in the affirmative and 27 in the negative, making in all 69 votes but there were other delegates in the room who did not vote. The whole delegation, I believe, was here which would give a majority vote, inasmuch as I said before, anyone who does not vote either in the affirmative or the negative is accounted as voting in the affirmative. That being so it gave the necessary two-thirds majority to suspend.

Delegate Stevenson: Mr. Chairman, seeing that we adjourned this mornings and afternoons sessions, I move that we fix the time for the conclusion of this evening session at 9:30.

Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.)

Delegate Casey: I arrive to a point of privilege in the matter of introducing a resolution forwarded by the Engineers' Union of Prince Rupert.

Mr. Chairman: Any objection (There being no objection, Delegate Casey proceeded to read the resolution.)

"Whereas members of organized labor have been, and are being brought to trial for violation of certain orders in council that are in themselves violations of constitutional rights.

And whereas, The workers individually cannot afford to employ counsel for their own defense;

Be it therefore resolved, That this annual convention of the B. C. Federation of Labor do put into motion right here and now, machinery for inaugurating a sinking fund (either by levy or other means that will eliminate the aspect of charity) for the employment of the best legal talent in defense of workers arrested for aforesaid political offenses. This fund to be open to any organized worker by application of his union, and upon discretion of trustees of said fund.

Be it further resolved That this resolution be read at Western Conference with the object of suggesting its adop-

tion to all provinces."

The chairman: Does the chairman understand that you just received that resolution from Prince Rupert?

Delegate Casey: The resolution was forwarded to me by mail and reached me today and it explains itself. It is for the purpose of making some provision for working men who are charged from time to time for political offences, who have not the financial means of insuring themselves of anything like a square deal in the matter of a trial, in the way of securing this legal defense. That resolution as stated asks this organization to make provision, to bring into being the machinery, which will provide for the defense of any such member should they be charged and thrown into jail for these political offences, which most working men are very often subject to. I think the resolution is a wholesome one and it should commend itself to this convention, therefore, I ask you to adopt the resolution and I move it.

Motion was seconded.

The Chairman: You understand the circumstances under and to which Delegate Casey receives this resolution. Are there any objections to this resolution?

Delegate Stevenson: I would move that the convention allow the delegate presenting this resolution the extraordinary privilege as provided by our Rules of Order.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any objections to hearing this resolution and what action do you propose to take on it.

Mr. Chairman: Please make your motion.

Delegate Casey: My motion is "that the convention adopt the resolution and refer it to the incoming executive to organize machinery for its adoption."

(This motion was seconded.)

Delegate Hubble: I take it that the funds will be raised out of the general funds and if that is so, unless there is a movement on foot to raise some other levy, other than the present procedure, I take it this matter would go by instructions to the executive.

Secretary Wells: The resolution asked that the money be raised with a levy from another source. With the programme outlined by the convention so far, I can assure you, you will need out of all the money in at present, or that you will have for the present year. The programme outlined by this convention is a pretty expensive proposition, and

if anything is to be done the money will have to be raised by other methods than by taking it from the general fund.

(The chairman then put the motion and it was carried unanimously.)

Delegate McDonnell: I will also move in that connection, that that particular resolution be handed to the ways and means committee, who have yet to meet, as to the ways and means of creating the necessary funds.

Mr. Chairman: That the ways and means committee be asked to take up that part of the motion just passed upon.

Delegate Rees: Has not this been passed upon. I don't offer it as an objection.

Delegate Cottrell: I think the idea is that whatever recommendation the ways and means committee would bring in would come before this convention and have some weight.

The Chairman: The chairman wishes to say this, that the reason that prompted him to entertain this proposition was having in my mind the statement made by the secretary on finance, and that the only way we have of making finance is from our affiliated membership. That being so we would be in a far better position to take up the question of finances with our affiliated membership if we took it up through the agency of the delegates here after they had had some little discussion on the matter. I think we, at all times, want to apply a common sense discussion to everything that comes up. You have heard the motion, are you ready for the question?

(The motion was then carried unanimously.)

The Chairman: Is the committee of officers report in a position to report?

Delegate Cottrell: The committee on officers' reports has, taking into account the resolution, which the convention adopted with regard to legislation, etc., considered it an essential to cut out the whole lot of the criticisms we might have had to offer. Taking the report of the executive committee up to page 16, the officers' report committee beg to report as follows:

"Officers' report committee: To officers and members of the B. C. Federation of Labor.

Your committee have gone carefully over the report of the executive committee (to page 16) and whatever criticisms they would be inclined to offer as to the quantity or value of the legis-

tution obtained, would be criticism of the past policy of federation, and not of the executive officers, and in view of the fact that this convention has already decided to discontinue this policy of lobbying for legislation on behalf of the workers. We recommend that the report be received and adopted in accordance therewith. At the same time we note with regret that the report is not signed by the members of the executive, but by the secretary-treasurer on behalf of the executive. This does not mean the members ship any idea of the members of the executive who were present and endorsed this report.

I move the adoption of the officers' report.

(This was seconded.)

Delegate Trotter: In view of the little piece of criticism attached there at the tail end of the committee's report, perhaps the secretary in state who was present and responsible.

Secretary Wells: When drawing up the executive's report I wrote to a number of the executive and asked them to give me anything they desired embodied in it, and also to make some suggestion for the report. I was not loaded down with correspondence from the executive, I wrote the report and presented it to them in draft form, and there was present at that meeting Vice President Welch, Vice President Taylor, myself and Vice President Trotter. Some little amendments were offered by members of the executive to the report, and I was instructed to act on their behalf. Let me say, however, Mr. Chairman, that last night we were in discussion where some members of the executive had various causes.

One because of the cessation of his activities in connection with the trade union movement, and another owing to the fact that he went overseas with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. This was towards the latter end of the year, and nothing was done to replace them because the convention was so close to hand, expecting a convention to be held in January at that time, and that was the reason those two executive officers were not replaced.

So far as any executive officers are concerned who did not report, I want to state here and now, that it was their own fault and not mine.

(The report was then unanimously adopted.)

Delegate Trotter then read the report of the committee on the workmen's compensation act.

We recommend the report re workmen's compensation be received and adopted.

The Chairman: Are you ready for the question?

(The report carried unanimously.)

Delegate Cottrell: The committee recommends the adoption of the trustee report as submitted and I move its adoption.

(This was carried unanimously.)

Delegate Cottrell: Your committee recommend the adoption of the secretary-treasurer's report, and would especially point out to the particular attention of the delegates the conclusion of the secretary that our aims should be in the future to organize and educate the workers.

(The motion regarding a resolution was put and carried.)

The Chairman: Is the constitutional law ready to be read?

Delegate Midgley: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Your committee have prepared on are the instructions adopted at a special resolution passed at the Monday. You are fully aware that the resolution was, and the first part contained there. The first part of the amendment to submit to you is an amendment to the preamble of the constitution by striking out the words "beginning with the word 'we' in the second line and inserting the word 'future' in the place of 'we', and by substituting the following

"And the purpose of the organization of workers is to secure for the purpose of the workers by virtue of their industrial strength such demands as such organizations may at any time consider necessary for their continued maintenance and well-being."

I may say, Mr. Chairman, that we have struck out of the preamble that part referring to various legislative aspirations, the eight hour day and so on, and have replaced it with a portion of the resolution adopted on the first day, so that we could not express our desires better than by adopting a portion of the resolution you adopted on the first day. I move the adoption of the committee's report on the preamble.

Delegate Moulton: I would like to ask the reason for striking out "we, therefore, pledge ourselves." I understood that that principle had been affirmed by the convention.

Delegate Rees: I would like to ask the chairman a question. I understand that by the motion of the first day of the convention that we were going to change our policy with regard to going to the legislation, or the houses of legislature, by committing and clapping hands as was explained but we do not say that we are not going to try to have representatives on the floor of the legislature. That is a different matter entirely and as I see it if the committee strikes this out from the constitution then you are going on record of course as being opposed absolutely to the working class representation on the floor of the house. I would not say that that is the intention.

Delegate Midgley: The Federation of Labor is not a political party nor a party that places candidates in the field for election to the house so hence that clause does not properly belong in the preamble of an industrial organization. There are several parties in the field who attend to that end of it. It does not properly belong in here. In the trades' unions which are affiliated with this organization there is nothing in their particular constitution, in their preamble, which states whether or not they shall favor the election of a working man to parliament, and in view of the fact, that this federation has changed its policy there is no reason why it should stay, why we should state whether we are in favor of it or not. There are political parties in the field which try to interest parties on these propositions and as far as we are concerned that is their function. I see no reason that because this is not included that it should be taken as a stand, that we are not in favor of it. That is not any of our business in my opinion, in view of the position we have taken, but this industrial organization has no political aspirations.

Secretary Wells: As far as I am concerned the expression contained in the old preamble was of no value. As to the value of putting members of our class of the legislative floor it was only a pious expression of opinion. I took the stand last year that the B. C. Federation of Labor should not be linked up with any political party. I take the same stand this year. I believe we should keep our industrial organizations clear of that. As I stated last year the British Labor party has been hampered with its affiliations with the trades' union movement, and that trades' union movement has been hamp-

ered likewise by its political affiliation. If any political party supposing to represent the working class cannot stand on its own feet on the platform it enunciates, then, it has no right to the confidence of the trades' union movement, and I am in favor of making it plain that it shall not be linked up with any political party.

The Chairman: The motion is that the change in the preamble be adopted. What is your pleasure?

Carried unanimously).

Del. Midgley: The next resolution deals with Article 11 and the deletion of everything following the word "session," down to the end of that section, and they propose that the following be substituted for the part deleted:

"It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to act for this Federation when the same is not in session.

"They shall carry out the instructions and desires of the Federation, as expressed by the annual conventions; they shall assist in the organization of the workers along industrial lines, and shall participate in the education of the workers to their class position in society, to the end that wage slavery may be abolished.

"They shall present a report of their activities to each annual convention."

Del. Kavanagh: And that the words "and the legislative" be also deleted.

The Chairman: What is your amendment, Mr. Kavanagh?

Del. Kavanagh: I move an amendment, that in addition to the deletion offered by the committee, that the words "and the legislative" which follow the word "executive" in the first line be also deleted.

Del. Midgley: The committee has deleted it, Mr. Chairman, but I omitted it.

The Chairman: Is that satisfactory, Delegate Kavanagh?

Del. Kavanagh: Yes, that is all right.

The Chairman: Then we will consider the amendment withdrawn. (The adoption of the part of the committee's report was then put to the convention, and carried unanimously).

Del. Midgley: The committee recommends an amendment to Article 9 by striking out the words "and legislative," in the thirteenth line. (The chair put this to the convention, and it was carried unanimously).

Del. Midgley: The next one is a resolution covering Article 7. The resolution is as follows:

"That Article 7 of the Constitution be amended by changing the word 'eight' in the first line to the word 'three,' and by striking out the sentence commencing with the words 'the vice-president' in the fifth line down to the word 'interior' in the eighth line."

That in effect is reducing the Executive Committee from one of ten, to one of five, and electing them from the floor of the convention. That particular reference to geographical positions that delegates may come from or are candidates for office. In moving the adoption of this portion of the committee's report on Article 7, the majority of the committee were of the opinion, that in view of the changed policy of the Federation, it is absolutely essential that the Executive Committee shall be reduced from a large one of ten to five, in order that they may do the work, or in a word, that has been very often used during this convention that they might function. We find since coming to this convention that only four of the officers out of the ten elected last year are present in this convention. In conversation with the secretary, he has informed me, and I have found from my own experience during the time I was secretary, that it is exceedingly difficult to keep in touch with the vice-presidents elected from out of town unions. The present secretary will inform you that he has had difficulty in getting replies to his letters from vice-presidents situated at distant points, and so far as an effective executive is concerned, they have been those resident in or round mainland points. We believe that not only will more effective work be done in following the policies laid down by this convention, but that considerable expense will be saved the Federation in calling executive meetings, inasmuch as the bringing of the out of town men entails considerable expense. The convention will have the whole delegates to choose from to elect the five officers necessary for the executive committee from the floor of the house, instead of picking men that come from separate districts. I have known at some conventions that one or two men have been elected vice-presidents of this Federation for the simple reason they were the only delegates that came from a particular spot.

The committee whose recommendation this is, was not unanimous on this matter and possibly some of the minority might have something to say about it. The argument advanced was that the outlying points would feel aggrieved if they did not have some representation on the executive committee but let me point out to you that vice-presidents have in the past been having too much work in other directions to do or other interests intervening and have not functioned in the particular localities they came from, as they were pre-supposed to do by being appointed delegates, inasmuch as it was necessary last year to send an officer out to do organization work in the city of Vancouver, and in Victoria it was necessary for the committee to do some organizing work before this convention could be held and we, the majority in that committee, felt that more good will be achieved by cutting your executive down to one half, and electing five of the brightest men you have got, and putting into effect the policies at your convention. I move the adoption.

(This was seconded.)

Secretary Wells: Whilst the suggestions offered by the committee may have been good in the old form of organizations under this form I believe they would be bad. It is true in the past, Mr. Chairman, that we have not had the success with the vice-presidents that we might have, but you are about opening now a very different form of organization, and while Brother Midgley has referred to the organization work that has been done this year, let me point out that this is the first year where the executive committee has been able to bear the expense of an organizer, which in the past has been done by officers voluntarily. Victoria is an example of that fact. You are now faced with a different proposition. You are faced with the proposition where you are going out to organize industrially, then if you are going to organize industrially, you must have some representative in those districts. If you have not got a representative in any district you will have to send one there, and that is where the expense will be saved by having it at ten instead of five. I was in favor of a change at one time, and I discussed the matter with a good many people prior to the convention because I was not satisfied with the old order. Too much of the decision rested on my

shoulders, or on the shoulders of one or two men whom I could get in touch with in a hurry, who would respond. However, on this occasion, you are going to have men who are going to be placed in a very different position in those outlying spots throughout the Province. I want to say this: If you are going to carry out organization work, you have got to depute somebody to do it, and you have got to pay them, and if you are going to pay them, it would be far better to be a man chosen at the convention, a man who resides in the district, to carry on that work, and by that method you will save a lot in transportation expense. Might I point out here, that if we are going to try and carry out all the work that is intended, then the money that you have in hand is practically already mortgaged out by the expense to be incurred by the incoming executive.

Del. Watchman: This article in the constitution is the result of experience, and while it is true that in part, some vice-presidents have been very lax in relation to writing letters or doing anything, let me say that sometimes vice-presidents in the city of Vancouver, were absolutely inactive while vice-presidents in the outlying districts were always active and on the job. I could refer to various of the vice-presidents in the outlying districts who were an immense help, and while some of the executive, who were close in, were absolutely useless. I do say this, that by an election of five men from this convention, that wherever the convention is held, the local color will predominate. For instance, if this convention was held in the city of Victoria. I want to assure you that it would be at least 52 or 55 per cent. of them would be of the local color, would be the voting power of the convention. Every local union would be thoroughly represented, and every organization, so far as I know, that is affiliated with the Federation of Labor. If, on the other hand, it was held in the city of Vancouver, as it was held in the city of Vancouver, then at that convention, I say it was very poorly represented with the size of the organizations.

There were four of the committee against the recommendation of the committee, and I want also to say that while there were sixteen on this committee, there were only eleven in attendance, seven voted for it and six against it.

Secretary Wells: I move as an amendment that the proposal of the committee be adopted, but the number of officers be the same as at present, that is, to change the wording of that clause.

Del. Watchman: I second the amendment.

Del. Kavanagh: It was pointed out by Del. Watchman the local color which obtains in convention, and the fact that local memberships invariably might elect some of the local representatives. Fortunately, we are situated at this time where local color can play no part. We are outside the Province of British Columbia, and while it may be that the proposal to limit the executive to five places the movement so-called in the hands of fewer men, though nothing can place the movement in the hands of fewer men, because the movement will always be, whether it be in the hands of any one or not. It must be borne in mind that at no stage of the game, and at no time, have the executives, to my knowledge, been composed of five men. I remember in 1913, when the executive at that time attempted to make this Federation function as an industrial organization, that there were only three members who functioned, and that the balance of the executive situated in Vancouver, in Westminster and throughout the Province never even replied to the communication, and action had to be taken by those three without waiting for those replies. There were only three active men at that time. Now then, it must be borne in mind further, that the particular plan on which the organization now proposes to go forward is one which of necessity will call into existence the district boards in the various industrial districts. Boards which of themselves, will have considerably to say as to what the functions of any executive elected by this convention may or may not be, and as to how it shall be carried out.

Be it understood you are now electing an executive with an entirely different policy than any executive that has been elected before. You are electing an executive which has stated that it is going to use industrial strength to obtain what demands are deemed necessary, and that of itself gives that form of organization, or calls into existence executives in all of the industrial districts, who of themselves, will have considerable power in the districts in which they are situated, and the orders

of the executive of this Federation will be judged according to the way they suit the various districts to which their orders may be sent. And what is needed and will be needed, in view of the rapid changes, in view of the process of education which the Federation has insisted shall be carried on, is an executive which can be got together quickly, an executive which will be alive and not dead, and an executive which will function, and while seven men may be good, and ten may be good under certain conditions, this decrease of the executive would not be taken necessarily because it was thought at the time they would do any great amount of organizing work, but because it was felt necessary to link up the Province with the B. C. Federation of Labor, and labor has gone a step forward since that time.

Del. McVety: The reasons advanced by the secretary of the committee seem to me to be most excellent reasons why a change should not be made. The same is true of the arguments advanced by Del. Kavanagh. The executive committee of this Federation did not always consist of ten members. There was a time when it consisted of two or three less, and there was a very excellent reason why a further change was made. There has always been a feeling in the Province of B. C.—I refer to the population situated in the small sections which is not of Vancouver and Victoria—one has only to look backward to realize that as far as the smaller sections of the Province were concerned, taking Nelson, the Kootenay and the Crows Nest Pass, that the representation was largely geographical, and out of keeping with the idea of members being in touch with one another. I say it is more difficult in the Province of B. C. to keep the various sections of the executive in touch with one another than it is in many cases. I say to you from that standpoint alone, that if you are going to stake your future on industrial action, then it more imperative that there should be executive representatives in those sections to keep the membership in those sections in touch with what is going on. When you are requiring them to take action on some particular question, as in the old days, when the programme consisted largely of a legislative one, and there were no questions of immediate necessity coming before them, it was not so essential that every one should have matters at their finger ends, but to say to these men on the one hand, "we are asking

you today to do away with your old legislative programme, and substitute therefor an industrial programme" that necessitates mass action at the time, I say it is a bad policy, and not in the interests of this Federation to decrease the number of the executive. You must place your membership amongst the industrial sections of the Province that will be called upon from time to time if the plan is worth a damn, and can be put into operation, that are going to test their economic and industrial strength side by side with you. The whole proposal is not undertaken with the idea of furthering the best interests of the B. C. Federation of Labor, but with the idea of placing the power of the organization in fewer hands. It is a fallacious policy, and will not result in progress as it did not under the old lines, because locals from the interior would want to withdraw because it was thought to be a worst proposition. If you are expecting action from the new programme, you must, as a matter of course, regardless of class, of man, who comes from those centres, give them their share of the decisions and responsibilities so that you can rely upon the support of their membership on occasions when it is required. I am opposed to the amendment, and hope it will be defeated.

Del. Montgomery: I am opposed to the proposition to reduce the executive at all, because I believe in democracy, and here we have inaugurated a new form of industrial unionism, and still we want to limit the executive and make it into what you might say is an industrial autocracy. If this organization is going to be anything, you must take up the broadest line possible, and give as much representation to the outside district as possible, and it will give the large centre, which would include the big cities, a chance of learning the conditions in the smaller places. There is no doubt about it, and it has been hard in the past to get the executive together and perhaps it will be hard in the future, but at the same time, it was not very expensive, but it will be more expensive to send everything away to the hub to correct this information than to have it on the ground.

Del. McKenzie (Loggers Union): In speaking in favor of the motion, the question has been raised of democracy, and while that is not a question that should bother the delegates, at this meeting, the delegates should consider

this point from their own standpoint, and by themselves. Will this be the most efficient method for the furthering of the motives of the B. C. Federation of Labor as reconstructed? The question has been raised about the expenses or would it be more expensive to have representatives from the Crows Nest Pass and Prince Rupert and the interior district towards Fort George, or wherever they may be, or to have an executive situated at some central point that could be got together at any time speedily to transact business that might be before it.

You must consider that that in electing any executive to perform its work efficiently, you must elect men with ability, with knowledge of labor movements, to perform those duties, and the duties of this organization as reconstructed, is to spread propaganda necessary to form industrial organizations, and there is going to be expense attached to it, and why should we consider expense when it is going to accomplish the aims and the betterment of the working class as a whole. And I should state this, that in electing the representatives from the various districts, this man may be elected, not from the knowledge he may possess of the labor movement, but for the popularity.

Del. Moulton: Mr. Chairman and brother delegates, I regard the proposed change, the reduction of the executive committee to the number of five, as not being conducive to the best interests of the Federation, unless there is substituted a motion to the effect that some committee shall be established in the various districts at the same time.

Del. Casey: In opposing the motion before the House, it is with one end in view, and that end is the considering of the situation that we have got to deal with. This convention can do anything it chooses, that is true, but it wants to keep an eye to this fact, that what this convention does, it does not necessarily finish the work. There is great work to be carried on in order to complete the programme as outlined by this convention, and in order to complete the work, we have to select in my opinion men who are well-known throughout the west, and throughout the length and breadth of the Province, and men who do possess the confidence and the intimate acquaintance of the workers throughout the province, and

in that particular viewpoint alone, I would hold that it is infinitely better for to retain the old system of executive than to adopt the policy of selecting a class executive at one central point for this particular reason, the question always arises, "who is it now that's got control?" That is the question that the members will have to answer to in making their report of this convention. We have got to reconcile the mass of the workers to the new form of organization. You want to remember this, that many of them are going to hesitate to approve of this plan, many of them are going to hesitate to conform with the new order, and in order to do that, I say you had better look with care to this particular motion that you are dealing with now.

Del. Scofield: In view of the fact that the Federation has already decided to adopt this new policy, it is more essential than ever that vice-presidents authorized by the constitution should assume a very active part in their respective districts, and I must pass in opposition to the motion.

Del. Nixon: As one of the minority in that committee, I am opposed to this change in that order, and I am particularly opposed to it because of the cutting out of the geographical lines. A good many years ago I was one of the rank and file in the outlying districts, and while most of the speakers here, seem to think that all the concentrated brains on considering labor questions is confined to big cities, I must say that the metalliferous miners have changed an awful lot in the last sixteen or seventeen years. They took more interest, and I think they do today, in labor questions than any members in the city of Vancouver, or the city of Victoria. They take interest enough and I have seen it myself. They take interest enough that on meeting nights in the middle of winter, they come seven and eight miles from their mines to the meetings, and I have yet as far as brains is concerned, to see better. There were as many brainy men there as in the cities of British Columbia.

Del. Taylor: This to me is a matter of vital importance and I want to place myself on record as being opposed to the recommendation of the committee, and I am going to give reasons and outline them as briefly as possible.

I want to say that I do not know of anything, that this convention could

do, which would be better calculated to kill the ends that we have in view, than pass the recommendation of the committee which has been placed before us. We have talked during the life of this convention of things that have been done in Russia; we have extended our greetings to Russia and to the workers of Russia, and it is quite apparent to everyone that the sympathies of the workers of this convention are with the workers in the country of Russia. What do we find there? We find that they have taken the methods of giving the fullest possible expression to the workers of their country. The question was mentioned by Del. Moulton about a dictatorship. I want to say that I am not opposed to a dictatorship providing it is a working class dictatorship. Provided it is a class against a class, there would be no hesitancy in my saying, "we have the power and we are going to use it, and no one shall stand in our way." But when it comes to a question of establishing anything which could be construed by the members, who, mark you, are not so far advanced in the aggregate as the delegates in this convention appertaining to labor and the working class problems in general, you have got to remember that; and reference has been made to the fact that some of the members here are giving better effect to expression than others and that also has to be taken into consideration in this way: that when various delegates report to their various locals, even though they be possibly given the best power of expression that can be within a human being, I venture to say that there are very, very few assembled in this hall at the present time who could attempt within a brief space allotted to the reporter to portray verbally what had transpired in this convention hall. It is not all beer and skittles on the reporting end of it. While this convention is sometimes unanimous in its desires to express its effects, our membership is not entirely that way. I say don't let us furnish some of the oppositions with an obstacle looking at it from that angle; furnish them with a club.

I want to conclude by saying this: I believe that the workers today should have the fullest power of expression, while the old existing order in respect to the executive is not infallible, yet to my mind it is by far the best

and fullest method of getting expression of the rank and file as compared with the recommendation of the committee.

Del. Cottrell: I move that the matter be referred back to the committee with instructions to consider the election of representatives through the trades councils of the different districts.

The amendment was seconded.

Del. Wells: When the system of ten representatives was first introduced we tried that, and it didn't work very satisfactorily, and that's the reason we reverted back to the election of executive members on the floor, and let me point out another thing here, there is no man who can go back to his district and explain the ideas and wishes of this convention better than the man who has been here and heard the debates. That will apply in years to come; I hope that we are not many years away when we will need it. I guarantee I could write a book, and I could not get into the heads of the membership what is now in my head by having heard the debates. There is a proposal to elect them from the district, and secondly, representatives of those districts would not know in the least what had transpired at this convention. I want to say that the men who have come to this convention are better posted than the men who have not come here. In view of that fact, I think, Mr. Chairman, that those men having got their ideas here, and understanding thoroughly what has transpired at this convention, they are in a better position to become members of the executive than those elected from the various locals.

Del. Trotter: I am distinctly opposed to the referring back to the committee of this resolution. It is quite evident now long before this stage of the proceedings has been reached that the committee has gone up a squirrel track, and that there is no sense whatever in referring back to the committee to try and obtain something of a similar nature to bring to this convention. Everybody is very much alive now to what the real issues are that were being involved in this proposition, so much so that nothing very much more is needed to flog this dead horse into a tan yard. I have no doubt in my mind that the clause there as it stands, and I think it will be eventually endorsed by this convention, is the best possible assistance at the present

time forgotten in the B. C. Federation of Labor. Any attempt to send the control of this organization back into the hands of about two persons, and a half will not meet with the wishes of this convention and the people whom it is declared to represent.

The executive of the B. C. Federation of Labor has other functions to perform which have not yet been referred to upon the floor of this convention. I purpose, however, before I sit down to speak of those, so that if this proposition needs any further discussion or any further consideration is given to this question, those taking part will be obliged to take into consideration the other things that are involved in the closing up of the control of a provincial federation of labor into a dictatorship. The executive committee's report has been adopted already by this convention, and one clause of that report already adopted by the convention reads as follows: "We would recommend that the members of the executive resident on the mainland and the island should be appointed to represent the interest of the B. C. Federation of Labor, thus giving wider representation on the board of directors, and at the shareholders' meetings." The reason that the executive committee placed that recommendation before this body, which has now been adopted as the policy of this body, although the convention adopted that holus-bolus along with other things, the idea being that the policy in the past regarding the Federationist, had not centred in the two trustees who voted the shares of the Federationist, held by this Federation of Labor up to some five thousand and five. The adoption of this recommendation will centre into the hands, if this policy was carried, and I presume that the idea of the resolution is that they shall be elected in Vancouver and in one ward of Vancouver if possible.

The idea is that these individuals shall have as large a proportion of the B. C. Federationist centred in their control as possible. The ten representatives having each a right to vote shares of the Federationist, and there being ten members, they would not have in their individual hands so many shares under their control as a smaller number of members on the executive would have. Therefore, there would be a broadening of that control, a more democratic proposition than is anticipated by the shortening or lowering of

the number of the executive. Let us look this thing straight in the face, let us look it in the two eyes, and let us see what it is. Don't refer it back to the committee and decide its obsequies. Obsequies are now due, and let us have this thing settled now as it was last year, in that this clause shall now stand as it is in the constitution of the Federation.

The Chairman: I will now put the motion. All in favor of the committee's recommendation show in the usual way.

(25 for; 53 against.)

The meeting then adjourned till the following morning.

March 12 (Morning Session)

The Chairman: The next is the continuation of the report of the committee on constitutional law.

Del. Midgley: There is a resolution that we amend article number 17 of the constitution by striking out the last clause commencing with the words "all resignations" and ending with the word "committee" and the committee recommends the following substitute: that the word "temporary" be added after the word "vacancy" in the last line but one of article 17, and the deletion of the balance of the clause.

This resolution was designed to remove an apparent contradiction that existed in the constitution. The repetition, and the contradiction, appear in the last line, where the president would appoint a member to fill a vacancy on the executive subject to the approval of the executive committee, and earlier in the article it states "the executive committee by a majority vote should fill the vacancy." Now the amendment would make the clause to read, "that the president upon receiving notice of the death or resignation of a member of the executive committee shall appoint a member to fill such a vacancy temporarily" and strike out the balance "subject to the approval of the executive committee." The clause might stand re-writing, Mr. Chairman, this last clause really should come first. But the secretary could do that before he has more constitutions printed, simply transpose the clause. I move the adoption of the committee's report. (A member seconded.)

(The motion was put to the meeting and declared carried.)

Del. Midgley: The committee, without any resolution, is recommending

to the convention an amendment to article 9 and article 13. In article 9 the end of the first clause states: "The president shall receive for services five dollars per day for the time actually devoted to the Federation and his actual expenses while so employed." That is the last two lines of the first clause of article 9. The committee recommends the deletion of that portion entirely and they recommend an amendment to article 13 dealing with the remuneration of every member of the executive committee. I may point out in parenthesis they are recommending the deletion of that clause dealing with the president's remuneration because it will all be included in the remuneration of the executive committee, and in regard to clause 13 the executive recommends that the clause be amended by striking out "all" after five dollars per day and substitute therefore "seven dollars per day" be the wages "when away from home and five dollars per day expenses" and I move the adoption of the report.

Del. Pritchard: Mr. President, I would like to ask a question of the chairman of the committee on constitutional law as to the reason for amending article 13 by taking out five dollars per day and actual expenses which are ascertainable, and substituting therefor seven dollars per day and five dollars expenses. I would like to know the reason for that drastic change.

Del. Midgley: Mr. Chairman, in the opinion of the committee five dollars per day wages was too low and therefore, they substituted seven, and the reason for substituting the rest of the clause was, in the opinion of the committee, the actual expenses of one delegate or of one member of the committee might be very much different under the same set of circumstances as another delegate, and the committee was of the opinion it was far better to fix an actual amount rather than leave it to the discretion of the individual concerned as to what his expenses were.

The Secretary: May I in addition to the explanation given by Bro. Midgley, say this—that there have been times when members of the executive who were receiving considerably higher rates of wages than five dollars per day, have been called upon to do work for the Federation and we had no choice but to pay them according to the constitution, and they received five

dollars per day and then lost perhaps two or in some cases three dollars per day by attending to the work of the Federation. That is not as it should be.

Now, as regards the expenses. In the past it has been the practice to pay three dollars per day expenses for any body on organization business, and I think you will realize that three dollars per day expenses does not go very far. Three dollars per day was not enough, and while I cannot say that I am altogether in favor of five dollars, at any rate some fixed sum should be made, because if you do not do that you are going to have cause for wrangling; and if you leave it to the payment of actual expenses you are going to have some cause for wrangling or some personal spite may come up when all the accounts are rendered at the year end, when the different members are putting in different expenses.

Del. Pritchard: I can see the point in Brother Wells' contention, but I am only a little dubious because the proposed change, to my mind, would bring the daily payment of the executive officers greater than is usual under similar circumstances; for instance, it would be greater, in my opinion, than the average pay of delegates to this convention. Seven dollars per day and expenses of five dollars—that is stated expenses of five dollars—would bring it to twelve dollars per day. I can see the contention in Bro. Wells' arguments, that men who are working at a certain trade and receiving a certain rate of pay and going to work for the Federation have gone to work at a stated sum which is much below their usual pay, but it seems to me that the proposed amendment would be giving an executive officer payment and expenses much in advance of the average worker; not only so, but when you take in actual expenses in addition to the wages, you are taking something which the ordinary worker has to take out of his wages.

The Secretary: In the past, the procedure has been to pay the officers' wages for six days per week and expenses if they were away on Sunday; to pay them their expenses for Sunday but not wages.

Del. Pritchard: That procedure would govern in this?

The Secretary: I take it, it will. It is not in the constitution, it is a kind of unwritten law.

Del. Trotter: One thing that might be overlooked and that Del. Pritchard perhaps lost sight of. He says that an ordinary man has to pay his expenses out of his wages. Now, I have had a great deal of experience of that kind and it is this, that he is leaving home with all his overhead expenses behind, and his wife and family have to be kept just the same, and any man who has been on the road, any man who is a family man, knows that overhead expenses in your home are not very materially affected by your absence. It is really so.

Del. Midgley: I just wanted to suggest we might discuss this all day and never get anywhere. It is a matter of opinion and the discussion does not make any progress. In one particular the committee has based their recommendation on what the chairman is getting, because he is getting \$3.00 per day less than the recommendation.

Delegate Montgomery: I have as an amendment that each executive officer be paid the wages he would receive if working and his actual expenses. This was seconded.

Delegate Cottrell: I move an amendment to the amendment. That we pay \$6.00 a day wages and \$5.00 expenses. I say nothing against the expenses after the experiences that have been spoken of.

Delegate Lee: I second.

The Chairman: The amendment to the amendment is that the wages shall be \$6.00 per day and \$5.00 per day expenses.

Delegate Wells: I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that Delegate Cottrell revise his amendment to \$7.00 per day wages and \$4.00 per day expenses.

Delegate Cottrell: I would be quite willing to alter that in any way especially as it comes from one who has had experience and knows more than I do about travelling through the province. As long as it secures that \$1.00 reduction that is the main thing I think.

The Chairman: Any objection to the amendment to the amendment being changed from \$6.00 and \$5.00 to \$7.00 and \$4.00?

Delegate Midgley: I do not know how the rest of the committee feel on the matter but I am quite agreeable to the amendment made by Delgat Cottrell and having it \$7.00 and \$4.00 instead of \$7.00 and \$5.00.

The Chairman: Are there any objections then to that line of procedure outlined by the chair, that is to proceed and take a vote on the amendment to the amendment and the motion and whichever carries then if the members desire to have a roll call on the motion adopted they can then express themselves in that way.

Delegate Midgley: The committee has accepted the amendment moved by Delegate Cottrell and, therefore, that becomes the committee's report and you only have a motion and an amendment. The committee's report of \$7.00 and \$4.00 and the amendment moved by Delegate Montgomery.

The Chairman: The motion is that \$7.00 per day wages and \$5.00 per day expenses, the amendment is that the executive members will receive all allowance which they would be paid if following their daily occupations plus actual expenses. The amendment to the amendment is that they shall receive \$7.00 per day and \$4.00 per day expenses. You will vote on the amendment to the amendment first. All those in favor of the amendment to the amendment will signify in the usual manner.

(The amendment to the amendment was put to the meeting and on a show of hands the chairman declared the amendment to the amendment defeated by 51 votes to 30.)

The Chairman: You will now proceed to vote on the amendment. I guess we might as well take a show of hands on that too.

Delegate Kavanagh: Would you mind reading it?

The Chairman: The amendment is "that the executive members shall receive the daily allowance of wages exactly the same as they would receive if they were working at their occupation plus expenses." All those in favor of the amendment will raise their right hand.

(The amendment was then put to the meeting and declared lost.)

The Chairman: You will now vote on the motion. All those in favor of the motion will raise their right hands. The motion is \$7.00 and \$5.00.

(The motion was then put to the meeting and declared defeated.)

The Chairman: The amendment to the amendment, the amendment and the motion are all defeated.

Delegate Sinclair: I would move that article 13 remain as it is constituted.

A Delegate: I second.

The Chairman: Inasmuch as the convention has voted down all three propositions it remains exactly as it stood.

Delegate Midgley: There is also a resolution moved by Delegate Macdonald of Prince Rupert, Trades and Labor Council, an amendment to article one, section 3 dealing with representations. The proposal is that the section be amended as follows: "In the election of central bodies affiliated with the federation; after the word Federation add the following 'and in good standing for 60 days prior to calling of said convention this pertaining to delinquent unions only.'" The object of the mover of the resolution as I understand it is that any delegate offering himself and accepting nomination for election from the central body must be a member of a union that has been in good standing for sixty days with the federation prior to the calling of the convention. That would mean any delegate a member of a union not in good standing for sixty days would not be elected to this convention.

The committee agree with this resolution because they believe this objection would have the effect of bringing some organization into affiliation, a man who is elected or nominated and expects to be elected through the central body would naturally use his endeavors to get his affiliated with the federation and this would work as an incentive to the delegates. I move the adoption of the committee's report.

A Delegate: I second. The motion was defeated.

A Delegate: I move the adoption of the committee's report as a whole, and before I move that motion I would like to ask a question from the point of information. Can a resolution put before this body here be withdrawn in committee?

The Chairman: No, the committee can recommend that it be withdrawn, but a resolution once being introduced becomes the property of the convention and the convention then refers it to the committee and the committee may then take such action upon it as they may deem necessary, they could recommend the resolution be withdrawn, amended or make any substitute resolution.

A Delegate: Then there is one resolution withdrawn before the committee, and the committee have not put in any recommendation here and as a

member of the executive, and since labor has taken the stand that they demand, I demand that that resolution be put before this house, and I move it and that is, that rule 18 be amended, that it be read as the proposed resolution would amend it.

Delegate Midgley: As the person who gave notice of motion to amend article 18 I said in committee I would withdraw the resolution and I stated so a few moments ago. I thought the brother if he had any question to raise would raise it then but he evidently desires to say something. I stated in committee that I withdrew it. The proposed amendment was the striking out of the last clause commencing with the word "amendments" and ending with the word "date." My motion was the object of striking out the clause referring all amendment to the constitution to the membership for ratification, when there was already a clause in the constitution dealing with the referendum, and any sectional movement could ask for an amendment if necessary, and I considered this a duplication and unnecessary work for the secretary to refer it to the members. However, the members ascribed a motive to the proposition that did not exist, they suggested that we desire to take out of the hands of the membership the control of the federation over the constitution, and owing to that fact, I stated I would withdraw the resolution rather than have these motives ascribed to it. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I reported to the committee that I would withdraw the resolution.

Delegate Kavanagh: I move the resolution be permitted to be withdrawn.

A Delegate: I second.

The Chairman: The motion is that the resolution in question be withdrawn.

Delegate Midgley: The recommendation of the committee is not that it be withdrawn, the committee made no recommendation. I made it in the committee that it be withdrawn.

The Chairman: It has been moved and seconded that this resolution be withdrawn from the convention.

Delegate Casey: With the advice that such an attempt be not tried on again. It is very bad procedure to try and take control out of the hands of a tac rank and file.

The Chairman: This motion is to withdraw the resolution and we will proceed to vote on it.

(Adopted.)

The Chairman: Is the committee on audits ready to report?

Delegate W. Yates: Chairman of the committee of audits (dated March 11, 1919.)

"The committee on audit reports that the books, vouchers, receipt-tabs, etc., of the secretary-treasurer have been checked up and examined and found to be correct.

The detailed statement of receipts and expenditure as contained in the officers' reports tallies with the books and accounts and shows a balance on hand at January 1st, 1919, of \$465.57.

For the further information of the delegates your committee have checked up the receipts and expenditures from January 1st to March 1st, 1919, to ascertain the present financial standing of the federation and submit the following statement on the subject:

Receipts

Balance on hand Jan. 1	\$ 465.57
Received in Jan.	\$1024.71
Received in Feb.	515.47
Received in March....	261.72
	\$1801.90 \$2267.47

Expenditures

Expenses in Jan.....	\$ 174.70
Expenses in Feb.....	386.32
Expenses in March....	261.52
	\$ 822.63

Balance in
hand March
11th\$1700.36
Less out-
standing
cheques 261.52

\$1444.84 \$1444.84

\$2267.74 \$2267.74

Your committee further reports that the books and accounts of the secretary-treasurer have been kept in a clear and satisfactory manner, and we desire to express our appreciation of the manner in which the work was carried out during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) W. Yates, O. Hayes, M. Massacat, T. Anderson, E. Kermode, W. Moulton, J. D. Bradstock."

I move the adoption of the report.

A Delegate: I second.

(Motion put to the meeting and declared carried.)

Delegate Renfrew: (Chairman of the ways and means committee): Your committee recommends to this convention, that the incoming executive be instructed to circularize the affiliated unions asking for voluntary subscriptions to create a fund for the legal defense of organized workers, charged with offenses as laid down by the resolution submitted by Delegate Casey. I move the adoption.

Resolution:

"Whereas, Members of organized labor have been, and are being brought to trial for violation of certain orders-in-council that are of themselves violations of constitutional rights and

Whereas, The workers individually cannot afford to employ counsel for their own defense.

Be it therefore resolved: That this annual convention of the B. C. Federation of Labor do put into motion right here and now, machinery for inaugurating a sinking fund (either by levy or other means that will eliminate the aspect of charity) for the employment of the best legal talent in defense of workers arrested for aforesaid political offenses, this fund to be open to any organized worker by application to his union; and upon discretion of trustees of said fund.

Be it further resolved. That this resolution be read at Western Conference with the object of suggesting its adoption to all provinces."

I move adoption.

Motion adopted.

Delegate Renfrew: We recommend that the secretary be instructed to convey the thanks of this convention to Brother Tallon, Secretary Young and officers of the central body for their unsparing efforts to make this assembly a success.

(The motion was seconded, put to the meeting and declared carried.)

Delegate Renfrew: We recommend that the sum of \$25.00 be paid to the caretaker of the hall for his services during this convention.

(The motion was seconded, put to the meeting and declared carried.)

Delegate Renfrew: We recommend that the executive committee appropriate our share of the Western Conference expenses pro rata. I move the adoption.

The Secretary: I take it the proposition is to give the executive power to

assume our share of the expenses on the holding of the Western Conference. I might say that when the proposal was first mooted the committee in charge of the Western Conference arrangement was without funds and that the postages and such like were paid by the B. C. Federation of Labor.

The motion was adopted and the report as a whole adopted.

The Secretary: It has been the custom in the past to have bound copies of the proceedings of this convention sent to the different unions. It has also been the custom, not exactly the custom, but on some occasions the report of the convention proceedings have been given in the B. C. Federationist. This year, I think with the programme we have outlined that we should take steps to see that not only the members of organized labor in the province of B. C. but those members living in other provinces in the Dominion should be made acquainted with what has transpired at this convention, and I am going to move that the proceedings of this convention be published in the B. C. Federationist, and that one thousand copies be printed in book form for use of the officers of the affiliated bodies, and in doing that, Mr. Chairman, you are going to achieve the object of putting the ideas expressed at this convention into the hands of at least twenty thousand members of the working class. That is, the people who would naturally receive them, but mark you this, I think I can safely say this, that to every paper that is published each week, three people read it, and you are going to get the proceedings of this convention into at least the hands of sixty thousand people by adopting this motion. I suggest one thousand copies for the use of the officers, in book form, so that any question that arises in the local union dealing with the referendum, or anything of that kind, or the policy of the federation, the officer will have that on file and be able to refer to it. We do not expect the members are going to keep the Federationist and carry it around, but the officers of the organizations all having three or four copies in each union, will be in a position to give the members of the union, all the information necessary, and in view of the fact that our policy which we have adopted, is going to call for propaganda, that we can start in right at the first.

(The motion was seconded.)

The Chairman: And the newly-elected secretary will mail a copy of the proceedings to the delegates.
(The motion was carried.)

Delegate Watchman: In view of the fact that a large amount of matter is to be placed to a referendum vote of the membership, in going over the constitution of the federation, I find absolutely no provision at all for the percentage of the votes. It is stated by the secretary-treasurer at this time, we have somewhere in the neighborhood of a fifteen thousand membership, affiliated with the federation, and in taking a vote for the holding of this convention here, we find somewhere in the neighborhood of three thousand members voted on the question. My idea is, that in view of the fact of the matters that are being submitted to the membership, that the incoming executive should have something in the constitution as a guide, or a guidance to them, so as to see what percentage of the membership will carry the vote, so it will not be left as it is at the present time, for them to decide when a referendum vote is carried. I do think that if we are to have any protection to the membership of the organization that our constitution should make provision either for a fifty-five per cent vote before any action is taken, because I do feel if this matter is carried into effect, and the executive is instructed to inaugurate a general strike, that at least they should have some guidance whether it should be fifty-five per cent of the membership, or fifty-one per cent of the membership or so on. I think the entire matter should be referred to a committee on constitutional law to bring something in for the guidance of the incoming executive and I would like to hear some other delegates on this question.

The Secretary: It is a point well taken, Mr. Chairman, I have in mind the time when the general strike vote was taken in opposition to conscription. The referendum, according to the number of votes returned, was carried, and some of the members of the executive felt, in spite of the smallness of the vote, that we should call a general strike. I opposed that method because I believed that to attempt to call a general strike with the indifference shown by the members would be folly, and was injurious to our movement, and in this case you are attempting to establish a new policy. In a sense,

you are forming a new form of organization. If the executive only has on hand a vote of something like six thousand of the entire membership, with perhaps a hundred of a majority, it would be a pretty hard proposition to carry out the proposal as outlined at this convention, and I am rather inclined to think that the executive, whoever they may be, will be wise enough to see the danger of trying to do any thing with a vote of that nature. At the same time, it may be that the executive committee would not be as wise as we might like them to be, and they might start something which would have injurious results, and I am rather in favor of Delegate Watchman's suggestion to refer it back to the committee on constitutional law, for them to deal with the matter and bring in a resolution to this convention.

The Chairman: The chair will entertain a motion requesting the committee on constitutional law to bring in a supplementary report covering that.

Delegate Wilkinson, Vancouver: I move that the committee on constitutional law be instructed to bring in a recommendation expressing what in their opinion is a suitable majority for this federation to act upon with reference to the subject which has been made the subject of a referendum vote.

A Delegate: I second. This was adopted.

The meeting opened at 2 p. m. with the vice-president in the chair.

The Chairman: The next business to come before the convention is the election of officers. The chair desires to say that it is customary in conventions where there happens to be a fraternal delegate present, to ask him to preside. We have no fraternal delegate here but the chair feels he would be expressing the good will of the delegates by asking Brother Tallon of the Trades and Labor Council, who greeted us on behalf of the trade unionists of the City of Calgary, to preside at this meeting.

A Delegate: Brother Tallon is not here.

The Secretary: I would move Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that Brother Tallon is not here, that we request Brother Somerville of Moose Jaw to preside while we elect our officers.

(The motion was seconded and put to the convention, and carried unanimously.)

Brother Somerville of Moose Jaw, then took the chair.

The Secretary: Mr. Chairman, I would move that three tellers be appointed to count the ballots.

Delegate Trotter: I would second that motion.

(The motion was put and carried.)

The Secretary: Mr. Chairman, I would suggest Brother Ellis of Victoria for one, Brother Sinclair of Vancouver for another, and Brother Lofting of Vancouver for the third.

The Chair: I am very glad to accept the suggestion of my brother secretary and will appoint the three men as tellers for the election of officers.

Delegate Midgley: Mr. Chairman I would like to make a motion to save time in the election of officers, that no nomination speeches be allowed.

(The motion was seconded and put to the convention and carried unanimously.)

The Chairman: We are now ready to receive nominations for the position of president.

(Delegates Kavanagh and Taylor were nominated for president.)

Delegate Reid: Mr. Chairman, I move nominations closed.

Delegate Pritchard: Mr. Chairman, I second the motion.

The Chairman: We do not want to shut out anybody.

The Chairman: There are two nominations before the convention at the present time. Do I hear any other nominations. Hearing no further nominations, I declare the nominations closed, and Delegates Kavanagh and Taylor will be voted on. The tellers will distribute the ballots.

(The ballots were selected and counted by the tellers and Mr. Sinclair reported as follows: Mr. Chairman, and delegates, the vote for Delegate Kavanagh is forty-four (44) and for Delegate Taylor is thirty-nine (39). We have counted over the ballots and find them correct according to the count.

The Chairman: You have heard the result of the ballots as reported by Delegate Sinclair, and I therefore declare Brother Kavanagh elected president for the incoming term.

The Chairman: We are now open for nominations for secretary-treasurer.

Delegates Pritchard and Wells were nominated for the position of secretary-treasurer.

The Chairman: Do I hear any other nominations? Any other nominations?

Hearing no other nominations, I declare the nominations closed. The brothers will proceed to distribute the ballots to the delegates present.

(The ballots were gathered and counted and Delegates Sinclair reported as follows: Mr. Chairman, according to the ballots, the vote stands, Delegate Wells, forty-three (43) and Delegate Pritchard, forty-one (41).)

The Chairman: According to the result of the vote, I now declare Delegate Wells elected as secretary for the coming term.

The Chairman: Now there are two vice-presidents to be elected from the Vancouver district.

(Delegate McDonnell, Delegate Cottrell, Delegate Morrison, Delegate Head, Delegate Pritchard and Delegate Trotter, were nominated.)

Delegate Pritchard: Mr. Chairman I decline the nomination.

Delegate Trotter: Mr. Chairman, I decline in favor of nominee Delegate Head.

The Chairman: Any other nominations? Do I hear any further nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed.

(The ballots were counted and Delegate Sinclair reported as follows: Mr. Chairman, according to the ballot, the vote stands after counting, McDonnell, forty-seven (47), Cottrell fifty (50), Morrison thirty-three (33), Head thirty-five (35).)

The Chairman: According to the results of the voting, the two Delegates McDonnell and Cottrell having received a majority of the total votes, I declare them duly elected as vice-presidents for the Vancouver district.

The Chairman: Nominations are now open for a vice-president from Victoria.

Delegates Taylor and Stevenson were duly nominated.)

The Chairman: Any other nominations for vice-president for the district of Victoria city? Do I hear any other nomination? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed.

(The ballots were collected and counted, and Delegate Sinclair reported as follows: Mr. Chairman the vote according to the ballots counted, stands, Delegate Stevenson, thirty-five (35), Delegate Taylor forty-seven (47).)

The Chairman: According to the result of the ballots, I declare Delegate Taylor elected for the district of Victoria.

The Chairman: We are now open for nominations for vice-president for Vancouver Island.

Delegates Naylor and Bateman were duly nominated.

(The ballots were collected and counted and Delegate Sinclair reported as follows: Mr. Chairman, the vote according to the ballots stands, Delegate Naylor sixty-three (63), Delegate Bateman twenty (20).)

The Chairman: The report of the ballot is declared by the tellers, giving Delegate Naylor a majority vote, so therefore, I declare him elected as vice-president for the Island district.

The Chairman: The meeting is now open for nominations for vice-president for New Westminster.

(Delegates McMurphy and Yates were duly nominated.)

(The ballots were collected and counted and Delegate Sinclair reported as follows: Mr. Chairman, the vote according to the ballot, stands, Delegate Yates, thirty-four (34), Delegate McMurphy forty-nine (49).)

The Chairman: You have heard the announcement as made by the tellers, and Delegate McMurphy having received a majority of the vote, he is declared elected.

The Chairman: Nominations are now open for the Kootenay and Boundary country.

(Delegates Roberts and Gill were duly nominated.)

Delegate Gill: I decline the nomination.

The Chairman: Any other nominations?

The Chairman: Are there any further nominations? Any further nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nomination closed, and there being only one nominee, I declare Delegate Roberts elected as vice-president for the Kootenay and Boundary country.

The Chairman: The meeting is now open for nominations for vice-president for the Crows Nest Pass.

(Delegate Phillips of Fernie was duly nominated.)

The Chairman: Are there any further nominations? Do I hear any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed, and Delegate Phillips, being the only one named, I declare Delegate Phillips duly elected as vice-president for the Crows Nest Pass.

The Chairman: There is one other delegate to be elected from Prince Rupert.

(Delegates Casey and Montgomery were duly nominated.)

The Chairman: Any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Delegate Montgomery: I decline the nomination, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: Any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare nominations closed, and there being only one nomination, I declare Delegate Casey elected vice-president for the Prince Rupert territory.

The Secretary: In view of the fact that the executive committee recommended that the representatives on the executive of Vancouver Island, and the lower mainland, be the trustees, I take it there is no need for any election for trustees this year. Is it fully understood that this was adopted in the committee's report?

Delegate Hubble: Mr. Chairman, seeing that that has been adopted, there is no other course to follow, although I didn't know it was in.

The Secretary: Mr Chairman, I would place in nomination the City of Victoria for the convention next year, and in doing so I would like to say the convention should have been there this year, but owing to the desire to hold a Western Conference, a referendum vote was taken, and it was decided that our convention should be held in the City of Calgary, to facilitate the delegates attending the Western Conference, and I think under those conditions Victoria should get the convention for next year.

(The motion was duly seconded.)

The Chairman: Do I hear any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the City of Victoria chosen for the holding of the 1920 convention.

The Secretary: It has been the custom in years gone by, Mr. Chairman, to elect a delegate to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. I think I have been elected five or six times, but we have never sent a delegate yet, excepting the year of 1915, when the congress met on the coast. I mention this, so that the convention can decide now, whether they wish to elect a delegate for this congress or not.

Delegate Taylor: Mr. Chairman, I would like to place in nomination the name of the secretary, as he mentioned, we have always elected a delegate, but

on account of the finances, the delegate has never gone. However, I wish again this year to place in nomination the name of our secretary.

The Secretary: Mr. Chairman, I would decline the nomination for the simple reason that I have other work in Vancouver, which makes it inadvisable for me to travel very far away at this time.

Delegate Hubble: I do not know whether it is the desire of the convention to go on record that they are in favor of sending a delegate or not.

The Secretary: That was my intention in raising the question. In view of the fact that we have altered our policy, is it any use? Personally, as far as I am concerned, the \$400.00 or \$500.00 which you would spend in sending a delegate to the next year's congress, could be made better use of, if spent in our own province in the work which we have laid out for the federation.

The Chairman: The question has been raised as to whether we should send a delegate or not.

Delegate Rees: Mr Chairman, to test the feeling of the convention, I would move that a delegate be sent by this convention to the Trades and Labor Congress.

(The motion was duly seconded.)

The Chairman: Any other discussions? If not, you have heard the motion, are you ready for the question?

Delegates: Question.

Delegate Naylor: Mr. Chairman, would you state the motion again?

The Chairman: The motion is to send a delegate to the next convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

(The motion was put, Ayes, thirty-three, Nos, thirty-five.)

The Chairman: According to the count of the votes, the motion is lost.

The Chairman: I want to thank the delegates for the support they have given the chair during the election and I hope you will have continued progress throughout this coming term. I will now ask the president-elect to come forward and take the chair.

(The president-elect, Delegate Kavanagh, here took the chair amid applause.)

Chairman Kavanagh: Brother delegates, I thank you for the great honor which you have conferred upon me, and I trust that I shall not disgrace the honor which you have placed in

my hand, but shall always use the gavel to the best interests of our federation. Now, your executive, as elected this year, is largely representative of those who brought before you the proposed change in policy introduced last Monday morning, and you have elected an executive, in other words, who are in sympathy with that proposed change. That being the case, it will be my endeavor, together with that of my colleagues, to do all we can to further the proposed plan outlined in the opening sessions of this convention. In order that the workers of this country may by what strength they possess remedy their position as it now exists until they finally arrive at that stage of intelligence, whereby they can institute democracy in its true form, that is, industrial democracy as we conceive it. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I again thank you. The committee on constitutional law will now report.

Chairman Midgley: Mr. Chairman, your committee on constitutional law has brought in, in conformity with the instructions of the convention, a recommendation as to the required number of votes necessary to adopt amendments to our constitution, and they have brought in a separate resolution with reference to the majority required to declare a general strike. We considered the two questions were considerably different, and therefore they would require different recommendations. The recommendation as to the adoption of amendments to the constitution, is as follows:

"It shall require a majority vote by organizations comprising the vital trades, such as transportation, metal trades and miners to adopt amendments to the constitution."

Mr. Chairman, I might say in considering this matter, we realized that there are a number of small, scattered organizations, who do not represent what is termed the vital trades, and in referring to them, I want to make it clear to you, make it clear to this convention, that I am not casting any reflection upon them as such, but merely comparing them to others, in comparison to their importance to industries, in general. That is to say, if we were to leave out a majority of all organizations, a number of small locals, such as bartenders, soft drink distributors, cigar makers and numerous others, which will occur to your mind, would have a very deciding effect on the votes taken

by organizations in comparison with an organization of hundreds or thousands of members, such as the longshoremen, street car men and so forth. We considered that the matter of a successful carrying out of a change of policy in the convention will rest largely in the hands of these vital organizations. If a change is adopted, if it were voted for by the least important organizations from an industrial point of view and rejected by the more important organizations, the result we feel would be detrimental to the best interests of our organized union, if it were forced to be carried on at the expressed disapproval of the more important organizations, and therefore we have brought in our recommendation. It was a very difficult thing to arrive at some united conclusion, as you discovered this morning in listening to the discussion, and we finally decided this was the best solution of the problem, therefore, the recommendation is: "That it shall require a majority by organizations comprising the vital trades, that is, transportation, metal trades and miners, to adopt amendments to the constitution."

I move, Mr. Chairman, the adoption of the committee's report.

(The motion was seconded.)

Secretary Wells: I agree, Mr. Chairman, with the policy so far, but it does not go quite far enough. The course of any move in the last analysis depends on the rank and file. That is a certainty. In fact anything that we may make in our organization will depend on the support which we receive from the members, and while we have got to take into account the basic trades, if you will so call them, the vital industries of the province, unless you are sure before making the change that the rank and file of these organizations are really represented by the ballots, then you are going to have very little chance of putting it into effect. And another thing is, if you get a real expression of opinion from the rank and file from the large organizations and the vital industries, it will have a large effect on the balance of the organizations which might probably, otherwise, withdraw from the organization as a whole. You are making a start and you have to prepare as you go along for building up. You are not going to establish this thing right at the start with all the affiliations which you have in the federation now, and therefore I move an amendment, Mr. Chairman,

as an amendment to the resolution that the local unions be instructed to take a ballot vote, ballot papers to be supplied to each member, and those not returned to be counted in the affirmative. By doing that you are getting a real expression of opinion of the membership, and you must have it before you can move. I do not care how much we may try to jam anything like this down the throats of members of our class, you cannot move along these lines successfully in that manner. It must come from the bottom up, and I am confident if you take a ballot vote in that way, that you will not only get a true expression of opinion of your membership, but you will then feel you can go ahead, you will go ahead on a sound and firm basis.

The Chairman: I would ask if the committee would be willing to have this added to their first recommendation regarding this proposition.

The Chairman: Not having the consent of the committee, I would ask for a seconder to the motion.

(The motion of Delegate Wells was then seconded.)

The Chairman: Are you ready for the question?

The Chairman: As I understand it it is this. Insofar as the amendment is concerned, the ballot papers will be issued by the secretaries of the local unions, and they then will notify the secretary of this federation of their stand on this question. As I understand the recommendation it is, that the majority of the vital trades must be secured in the affirmative if it is to go through, and I think that to mean this, that in a city such as Vancouver in which there are many small organizations not considered vital to industries, that should a majority of these organizations vote in favor and there not be a majority of those organizations vital to the trades, that is such organizations as transportation, ship-building, miners and so on, then the vote cannot be considered because the vital trades have not certified their willingness to support it.

Delegate McVety: Just reverse the situation. What would be the situation then?

The Chairman: It would depend on the judgment of the executive and to the conditions in existence at that time.

Delegate Wells: The motion is this, that the local union be instructed to take a vote, and that ballot papers be

supplied to each member, and those not returned to be counted in the affirmative.

Delegate Rees: You said before you would send them by mail to each individual member.

The Secretary: I didn't say "I" would, but I said they would be sent. It is the only way every man could be supplied with a ballot paper. Take the steam engineers for example, and they are as good an example as I can think of. They are scattered all over the province where they couldn't get their members to meet and take a vote under any circumstances, or even a majority of their members, so that there would be only one way of taking a vote of that kind. My suggestion is a little crudely worded perhaps, but it means this, that the local union to comply with the instructions of the executive will take a ballot vote by sending a ballot to each member of the organization in question, and unless that is done, the same disqualifications will apply to returned votes, as applies in other cases, if the instructions are not carried out. In other words, if the instructions are not carried out, the vote will not be counted.

Delegate Rees: I do not know whether you would call this an amendment to the amendment, or a substituted motion, but I would like to move it as a substitute.

The Chairman: An amendment is in order.

Delegate Rees: I would like to move that on all vital questions, except the question of calling a general strike, before the same becomes effective, we must have a two-thirds vote of our membership, and a majority of same. And I would also like to include in that the question of severing our connection from the international. The motion would be that it is moved as an amendment to the amendment, that on all vital questions, except a resolution to secede from the international union, or on the question of calling a general strike, before same becomes effective that we must have a two thirds vote of the membership and a majority of the same.

The Chairman: Are you ready for the question?

Delegates: Question.

The Chairman: You are voting upon the amendment to the amendment.

Delegate Hubble: I would ask Delegate Wells whether he is willing to de-

lete that portion which states that the ballots which are not sent in should be counted in the affirmative.

Delegate Wells: I may say this, that if you will only look at that last part properly, it is only this, that it is forcing the men who are too indifferent to return a ballot, forcing them to take some action, or their ballot will be counted in the affirmative.

A Delegate: For my information, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask, providing the amendment carries, will the motion as amended then be voted upon.

The Chairman: For the present you are voting upon the amendment to the amendment. The amendment to the amendment is that upon all vital questions, except a resolution to secede from the international union, or the calling of a general strike, before same becomes effective, we must have a two-thirds vote of the membership and a majority of the same. Are you ready for the question?

Delegates: Question.

(The amendment to the amendment was then put and defeated.)

The Chairman: You are now voting on the amendment to the motion, proposed by Delegate Wells, which is that the local unions be instructed to take a ballot vote, ballot papers to be supplied to each member, and those not returned to be counted in the affirmative. Are you ready for the question?

Delegates: Question.

(The motion was put and on count of the ballots were found fifty-four in favor.)

The Chairman: You are now voting on the resolution as amended. Are you ready for the question?

Delegates: Question.

(The motion as amended was then put and carried unanimously.)

Chairman Midgley: The next recommendation deals with the requisite to take a general strike, and it reads as follows: "It shall require two-thirds of the membership voting, to declare a general strike. The executive to take into consideration the vital trades, and their geographical position." Mr. Chairman, much of the argument which was advanced in relation to the last applies to this, except for a general strike vote, it will require two-thirds of the membership voting to declare it. That is to say, regardless of the number who vote, two-thirds of that number must be in the affirmative in order to carry a general strike vote. We

have always had in the recommendation that the executive take into consideration the vital trades and the geographical position of those voting. Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the committee's report.

(The motion was seconded and put to vote, and carried unanimously.)

Chairman Midgley: Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of the supplementary report of the committee as amended be adopted.

(The motion was seconded, put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.)

Secretary Wells: I think perhaps the actions taken at this convention are already bearing fruit. The executive was instructed last night to send a wire to the premier, and the following was sent:

"Hon. John Oliver, premier,
"Province of British Columbia,
"Victoria, B. C.

"B. C. Federation of Labor in convention assembled demands a most rigid enquiry into the explosion at No. 3 Mine, Coal Creek, on April 5th, 1916, and a further enquiry into the cage accident at Nanaimo last year. The convention awaits your reply before taking any definite action in this matter. Wire reply to A. S. Wells, Labor Temple, Calgary, Alberta." and Mr. Chairman, I am now in receipt of the following wire:

"Victoria, B. C., Mar. 12, 1919.

"A. S. Wells,

"Labor Temple, Calgary.

"Your wire received. Government agreeable to hold necessary enquiry at an early date.

(Signed) "JOHN OLIVER."

Delegate Pritchard: Mr. Chairman, I move that the new executive be instructed to keep this matter under advisement and devise ways and means of seeing that the promise of the government is carried out in case this promise finds the same resting place in the P. C. as the previous promises outlined in the secretary's report.

(The motion was seconded.)

Delegate Rees: Would you put in your motion, too, that the executive attempt to arrange at least a labor representation on the enquiry

Delegate Pritchard: Certainly.

The Chairman: The motion will be amended accordingly. Are you ready for the question?

The motion was put and carried unanimously.)

The Chairman: There is one question I would like to suggest, and I think someone should bring it up as a motion, that following the non-success of this proposal, that the executive carry on a propaganda and submit it again later to the membership.

Delegate Pritchard: I would move such a motion—that the executive be instructed, should the present vote of a referendum being submitted, not be carried that an extensive propaganda be carried out along the same lines, and the referendum again be submitted.

Delegate Watchman: I was going to suggest, would it not be advisable in the best interests of the labor movement, that a special convention be held sometime say in May, and failing the vote to be carried, then you would be in a position to take the entire matter up. I favor the idea of calling a special convention after the vote is taken, and not leaving it in the hands of your executive, because they might feel at that time that they deemed it inadvisable in the face of the vote to take any action. I think it would be a good idea, if that happened, if we could send a delegate from the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council to the American Federation of Labor, and propagate it right here inside their organization.

Delegate Midgley: I have discovered in one convention which I have attended, and I found it out by experience, myself, and also from the experience of the other delegates, that where any lone individual from the ranks attempted to raise his voice in that august assembly in opposition to the international officers, he was not even given a hearing. They would carry on a gentle buzz all over the room, and you would have no chance to talk. I will support the motion to carry on a propaganda.

Delegates: Question.

(The motion was put and carried unanimously.)

The Chairman: Is there any further business before the convention? I would like to announce that if delegates wish to have reports forwarded to them they must leave their address with the secretary.

Secretary Wells: Mr. Chairman, I might say one thing in conclusion to the delegates. The trouble has been in the past, to a great extent, that after the delegates have gone back and made

their reports to the organizations they represent, that the organizations have ceased to take any interest in the affairs of the federation. Now the executive officers of this organization can only do things if they have the rank and file behind them, and I would ask when the delegates go back to their organizations to tell their organizations that the federation is still in existence, and that they are part of it, and any questions which affect them as workers should be referred to the executive of the federation, so that we can know what is going on. We have not been connected with the different parts of the province as we should have been, and I hope, not only will the executive officers but the unions themselves, will do more towards keeping in touch with one another than they have in the past, so that the executive as a whole can understand the conditions which prevail at any particular time, at any particular part of the province.

Delegate Pritchard: Mr. Chairman, I would like to say one word before we adjourn, too. We have entered on a new policy, and you can take it as my personal opinion, that any man who has been considered sufficiently intelligent and whose opinions are considered an expression of the organization, which has sent them here, is also a fit and proper person to become an official and unpaid organizer for this convention, and for carrying on the propaganda of the new policy laid down by this convention. I think the delegates should be impressed with the fact that conventions only occur periodically, but the real work must go on in the meantime.

Delegate McKenzie: Being a representative of the loggers' union, and as the delegate that represents that union here, we will be going on the road to organize the camps shortly, and there is no doubt that we will do all in our power to bring this matter before the workers. I would also like to ask our president, that on account of the work that is ahead of us, that he take the greetings of this convention to the loggers union at their general meeting at the first opportunity that he can find.

The Chairman: If there is nothing more before the convention, and having concluded the most momentous convention in the history of the B. C. Federation of Labor, I declare this convention adjourned.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

To the Delegates attending the Ninth Annual Convention of the British Columbia Federation of Labor.

Your executive committee presents the following report for your consideration:

Legislation

At the close of the last convention, the executive met to deal with the many matters referred to it by the convention.

In dealing with the many things pertaining to legislation, the question of who should be present the legislative programme to the Government was discussed, owing to a resolution dealing with this matter being received from the Prince Rupert Trades and Labor Council. The resolution is as follows:

"Whereas, This Northern district is the point of contention under the baneful rule of closed town corporations and,

"Whereas, our representative Bro. W. E. Thompson holds a position of strength by virtue of being a town-man of three members of the Legislative Assembly, viz., Hon. T. D. Patullo, A. M. Manson and F. H. Mobley, of the Prince Rupert, Omineca and Athin districts respectively, and whereas, we are desirous of placing these members on record on the closed town question.

"Therefore, be it resolved, That we respectfully request the B. C. Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, to appoint Delegate W. E. Thompson as one of the representatives to attend the next Legislative Assembly."

While this resolution was evidently intended for the convention, it was presented to the executive at the first meeting of that body after the convention. It was decided that the situation would be met, by appointing Bro. M. Martin, who has a wide knowledge of the closed town question, and who in addition, could deal with mining matters, along with the president and secretary, to act as the committee to present the legislative proposals to the Government.

March the 12th was the date set by the Government for the presentation of our proposals. President McCallum, Secretary Wells and Vice-president Martin, representing the Federation,

Some little correspondence having been exchanged with the Railroad Brotherhoods asking as to the programme of the Federation, and the possibility of acting in unison, and as the views of these organizations were not at variance with those of the Federation, it was decided that they should be notified of the date of meeting with the Government, and as a result they were represented by T. L. Blommer, vice chairman of the Canadian Legislative Board of the Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen; T. L. Coughlan, chairman of the Legislative Board, and A. E. Solloway, of the Provincial Legislative Board.

The following is a list of the legislative proposals laid before the Government:

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Submitted by the British Columbia Federation of Labor, to the Government of the Province of British Columbia.

Department of Labor

The separation of this department from that of the Attorney General, and the creation of a separate portfolio for the Minister of Labor.

Electoral Reforms

Proportional representation, and the grouping of constituencies.

Amendments to the Provincial Elections Act, to provide for the use of the franchise by all voters, whether they are resident in the constituency in which they are registered or not.

To provide for at least two months to elapse, between the dissolution of parliament and the elections, that a special court of revision be held on the first day of the second month following dissolution.

To abolish the present system of election deposits.

Municipal

To abolish the present property qualifications, for the holding of public offices.

To provide for the extension of the franchise, to all bona fide residents,

without the payment of the present householders' tax, by municipal electors who are not property holders.

Enforcement of Labor Legislation

The strict enforcement of the Coal Mines and Metalliferous Mines Acts, the Shop Regulation Act, and other legislation pertaining to the welfare of the workers.

Amendment to the Factories Act

To prevent the use of basements, or rooms below the street level as offices for the production of printed matter, or for the setting of type.

Minimum Wage Legislation

An Act to provide a minimum wage of \$3.50 per day for all adult workers working underground in the mining industry.

An Act to provide for a minimum wage for women.

Hours of Labor

An Act to provide for a maximum work-week of forty-four hours in all industrial operations.

An Act to provide for a maximum work-week of forty-eight hours for all workers following the culinary crafts, and to provide that all persons employed in said crafts shall have one day of rest during each week.

Fortnightly Pay Day

An Act to provide for all wages to be paid at least every two weeks, such payments to be in currency and that at no time shall more than six days' wages be kept in hand.

Educational

To provide for the free issuing of all school supplies to the pupils of the public schools throughout the Province.

Trespass Act

An amendment to this Act, to prohibit the entry of Union officials to any property, to collect dues, and to transact any legitimate business, such as organizing, etc.

Fair Wages

That on all work carried out by contract for the Government, the rate of wages to be paid for all classes of labor shall be at trade union rates of wages and hours and conditions.

Protection of Longshore Workers

The appointment of competent inspectors, to inspect the gear and tackle

used in the loading and unloading of ships.

Employment of Caucasian Women By Asiatics

An Act to prevent the employment of Caucasian women by Asiatics.

Registration of Plumbers

An Act to provide for the examination and registration of plumbers, and the strict enforcement of sanitary regulations.

Wash Houses and Sanitary Conditions

To provide for wash houses in shipyards, foundries, machine shops, mills, mines, etc.

To provide for proper sanitary and drinking arrangements, in shipyards, mills, mines and factories, and in all construction camps, logging camps, etc.

To compel employers of labor to provide free bedding, such as mattresses, bed clothes, springs, etc., in all construction and logging camps, or in any industry where workers have been compelled in the past to provide their own beds, etc. Employers to be compelled to keep such bedding clean and free from infection.

Camp Inspection

Provision to be made compelling all health officers to visit all camps at least once a month, forbidding the use of enamelware in the preparation of food, and making it incumbent on all corporations to provide adequate medical and hospital treatment, and all necessary and up-to-date first-aid appliances.

Protection of Electrical Workers

Legislation for the protection of Electrical Workers, this occupation being acknowledged as being of a very hazardous nature, a draft act was presented for consideration.

Protection of Street Railway Employees and the Travelling Public

The limitation of the hours of labor for Street and Electric Railway Employees to a maximum of eight in any twenty-four hours.

No person shall act as a motorman or conductor on any street car, operated on the city streets, within the limits of any city in the Province of British Columbia, unless such motorman or conductor shall have first received at least fifteen days instruction on the different street car lines of said city, such instruction to be under the supervision of a competent motorman

or conductor on the said city street car lines, who has had at least two years' experience as motorman or conductor on said lines.

Said instructor shall certify to the fitness of any applicant prior to the said applicant taking charge of any street car; the certification shall state that the applicant is fit and qualified to take charge of, and operate, such car or cars.

Certification shall be made to the person in charge of the operation of the street car lines in said city, also to the provincial inspector of tramways, and such certificates shall become a part of applicant's record of service before applicant is put in charge of a street car.

That a penalty of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00), nor less than thirty days' imprisonment, or both, shall be imposed for violation of any portion of these rules.

Proposed Amendments to the British Columbia Boiler Inspection Act

1. Section 53 of chapter 24 to be amended by striking out the words "one month," in the fourteenth line thereof, and substituting therefor the words "seven days."

2. Section 69 of said chapter 24 to be repealed.

3. Section 70 of said chapter 24 to be amended by striking out the words "and special."

4. Section 75 of said chapter 24 to be amended by striking out the words "Engineers with temporary certificates" in the eighth line thereof.

5. Section 75 of said chapter 24 to be amended by striking out the whole of subsection 8 thereof.

6. Subsection 10 of section 75 of said chapter 24 to be amended by striking out all the words after the word "type" in the second line thereof; and substituting therefor the following words, "of any low pressure heating plant."

7. Section 9 of said chapter 24, to be amended by adding thereto the following section:

(76a) Where any boiler or steam plant is operated continuously during the whole calendar day of twenty-four hours, no engineer shall be employed nor remain in charge of such boiler or steam plant as defined by this Act, for any purpose except as hereinafter provided, for a longer period than eight hours in any such calendar day of 24 hours, and 24 hours for the purpose of this section shall mean from midnight to midnight, provided, however, that

nothing in this section contained shall apply in cases of emergency requiring immediate attention, or in case of any engineer being temporarily employed in the unavoidable absence of the regular engineer, but such latter contingency shall not occur for more than seven days in any calendar month.

Any owner or employer who knowingly permits an engineer to be employed in excess of eight hours in twenty-four hours in connection with such plant or boiler or any engineer or other person who continues in the pursuit of such employment as an engineer for a period of more than eight hours in a period of such twenty-four hours, or receive payment for work performed in excess of eight hours in twenty-four hours, or fails to comply with the provisions of this section, shall be guilty of an offence under this Act, and shall be liable to a penalty of not less than \$50.00, and not exceeding \$300.00.

Truck Act

To amend section 10 to read as follows:

Sec. 10. Sections 3 to 9 of this Act, both inclusive shall apply.

(a) To any workman employed all together, or in part, or on works or undertakings situated wholly or in part in any company or corporation town, or in any incorporated city or town or within three miles thereof, or

(b) To any goods, board or lodgings supplied or contracted to be supplied to any workman in any company or corporation town or to any workman in any incorporated city or town, or within three miles thereof.

Protection of Miners

Section 1. This Act may be cited as the Prevention of Dust Act.

Section 2. It shall be unlawful for any owner, operator or person in charge of any underground mine to cause to be drilled or bored by machinery a hole or holes in any stope, raise or drift in ground that causes dust from drilling unless said machinery is equipped with water-jet or spray or other means equally efficient to prevent the escape of dust; provided, that when water jet or spray are used, water free from pollution with organic or other noxious matter shall be furnished.

Section 3. Where machinery used for drilling or boring holes in stopes, drifts or raises is equipped as required by section 2 of this Act, it shall be unlawful for any person to drill or bore a hole in said stope, drift or raise with

out using said appliance for the prevention of dust.

Section 4. Any person who violates either of the two preceding sections, or any owner, operator or person in charge of any underground mine who hires, contracts with or cause any person to violate the two preceding sections, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than One Hundred Dollars, nor more than Five Hundred Dollars, or by imprisonment not more than six months, or both fine and imprisonment.

Section 5. That the words "person" and "person in charge," wherever used in this Act, shall be deemed to include corporations and associations existing under or authorized by the laws of either Canada or the Province of British Columbia.

Section 6. This Act shall take effect and be in full force from and after ninety days next following its passage and approval.

To amend the Metalliferous Mines Act to provide for the using of time fuses of the latest and most approved type, in all blasting operations. Such fuses to be approved by the Minister of Mines.

To provide for an eight-hour bank to bank regulation for all metalliferous miners.

To provide for the boxing of all trolley lines, shutes, etc., where contact with the lines is liable to occur.

To amend the Metalliferous Mines Act to provide that all inspectors shall post a copy of his report showing the number of the different places inspected and condition found therein, and that the inspector shall at all times be accompanied by a competent miner during such inspection.

The strict enforcement of clause (a) of section 8 of said Act.

To provide for a maximum work-day of eight hours for all persons employed around mines, mills and smelters and concentrators.

STATE SICKNESS AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Insurance

Legislation to provide for free state sickness and unemployment insurance, with free medical and hospital treatment, during sickness; this to apply to dental treatment as well as ordinary illness.

Mothers' Pensions

Legislation to provide for pensions for mothers, who through any cause, are left without support; to enable them to bring up their children without the necessity of placing them in orphan homes and similar institutions.

This legislation should be based on the principle, that mothers could not be better employed than in rearing their children in home surroundings.

Delegates Well Received

It is only fair to state, that at no time has any government shown more attention to a delegation representing the Federation, than was shown on this occasion. There not being sufficient time on the first day, the session was continued on the second day.

Perhaps the best way to show the results obtained, would be to give the following list of legislative enactments, which were placed on the statute books at the last session of the house.

LEGISLATION AFFECTING LABOR PASSED AT SESSION OF B. C. PARLIAMENT IN 1918

Labor Regulation Act Amendment Act, 1918

1. Repeals section 2 of Labor Regulation Act, chapter 124, R. S. 1911, which provides for an eight-hour day in smelters only. Extends operation of that Act to coke ovens, smelters, concentrators and mineral separation plants; save such men as are employed in the office, boarding house or bunk house, and further provides that more than eight hours in twenty-four may be worked at the plants in the event of accidents or for the preservation of human life, or for the saving of property from results of an accident. The Act comes into force on 31st March, 1919.

Metalliferous Mines Inspection Act Amendment Act, 1918

2. Provides that the Inspector of Mines shall post in some conspicuous place about each mine examined, a copy of his report to the minister required by section 6 of Metalliferous Mines Inspection Act, 1911. Rule 14 of that Act is struck out, and a new rule substituted, whereby the eight hours allowed to be worked underground in each twenty-four is to be computed from the time the miner enters the mine to the time he reaches the surface. Provision is further made that no person shall be employed above ground at or about a metalliferous

mine for more than eight hours in twenty-four, except those in the office, boarding or bunk houses or in the event of an accident or for the preservation of human life or property from result of an accident. Section 4 amends clause (21) of section 31 of original Act, by providing for substantial platforms every 20 feet of ladders in shafts, and section 5 provides for dust prevention where drills are used. The Act comes into force 31st March, 1919.

Coal Mines Regulation Act Amendment Act, 1918

3. Provides for eight-hour day to surface men with same qualifications as in last act as to office men and those employed in boarding and bunk-houses and in event of accidents, etc. This Act comes into force 31st March, 1919.

Minimum Wage Act

4. Provides for the constitution of a Minimum Wage Board, whose duty it shall be to enquire into the wages paid to female employees in the various occupations, trades and industries in the Province, and fix a minimum wage. For this purpose, the board is authorized to examine pay-rolls, books, etc., hold public meetings and enquiries, call conferences consisting of an equal number of employers and employees together with one or more disinterested persons representing the public, which conference shall on request of the board, make recommendation as to the minimum wage to be fixed in the industry under consideration. The board, after considering the recommendation thus presented, shall make an obligatory order specifying the minimum wage for the industry under consideration, which shall become effective within 60 days from the date thereof and thereafter it is unlawful for any employer to employ female help at less than the specified wage, under penalty of not less than \$25 or more than \$100 for each offence, the penalty being recoverable by summary conviction. Provision is made for the employment of physically defective women and of apprentices at less than the minimum wage under licenses issued at the discretion of the Board. The Board may also inquire into the wages and conditions of labor of girls under 18 years of age and make orders as to the minimum wage to be paid and the conditions of labor. Penalties are provided for against such employees on account of any action the employee may have taken with regard to the fixing of the minimum wage and

provision is also made that any female employed at less than the minimum wage may recover the balance between that sum and the minimum wage from her employer by civil action. The Act does not apply to farm laborers, fruit pickers or domestic servants, and came into force the date of assent.

Factories Act Amendment Act

5. Provides for the carrying off of noxious fumes from printing offices where three or more typesetting machines are used, and provides that the composing and stereotyping rooms of any printing office shall not be situated in the basement of any building unless the Inspector of Factories is satisfied as to the ventilation, etc. The Act comes into force on 1st January, 1919.

British Columbia Prohibition Act Amendment Act

6. By section 12, provides that any person in charge of any manufacturing or industrial plant, or the master of any passenger or steam vessel may, on obtaining a permit from the commissioner, keep on the plant, or ship liquor, not exceeding one quart, for use in case of accident or emergency. Act came into force on assent.

War Relief Act Amendment Act

7. Among other things prevents employers claiming the benefit of the moratorium with regard to assessments due the Workmen's Compensation Board. Act came into force 15th May, 1918.

Workmen's Compensation Act Amendment Act

8. Extends the meaning of "Employers" to include the Provincial Government and gave the board power to include such industries in the list of those affected by the Act, as it may by regulation determine. A very important amendment was made to the clause regarding permanent partial disability, whereby the board is empowered to give compensation to those permanently injured, although there is no diminution of earning capacity. Prior to the amendment now noted, the board was only able to compensate permanent injuries to the face or head, where the earning capacity was not impaired. Provision is also made whereby the board is given control over the installation of safety devices. The Act came into force on assent being given.

Poll Tax Act Amendment Act

9. Amended the Poll Tax Act, 1917, by limiting the deduction of poll tax by employers from wages to every male person in his employ liable to pay a poll tax. The Act came into force on assent being given.

Weekly Half-holiday Act Amendment Act

10. Excluded from the operation of the Act, the seven days immediately preceding Christmas, and also provides that the half-holiday should not obtain in the week during which or the week before, or the week after the day on which the half-holiday comes closest to any public holiday. The Act came into force on assent being given.

Company Towns

On four separate occasions during the year, the executive has pressed for something to be done on the closed, or company town situation. What will be the result, the legislation enacted at the present session of the house alone will show.

At the time the legislative proposals were presented to the Government, it was pointed out to the deputation, that matters such as were proposed, should be placed before the government during the recess, and not when the house was in session, as sufficient attention could not be given to them at that time. The government also promised that in the event of any Labor legislation being contemplated by the cabinet, that Labor would be consulted through the executive. With this in mind, Secretary Wells sent the following letter to the premier:

September 2nd, 1918.

Hon. John Oliver, M. P. P.,
Premier Province of B. C.

Sir: In March of this year the executive of the above Federation, through a sub-committee, laid before the government a legislative programme. At the time, we were informed that the Government had not the time to give that consideration which our proposals merited, in view of the fact that the house was in session, but we were informed that after the house rose, that they would receive consideration, and that from time to time we would be kept informed as to the progress made.

We have as yet had no word as to the intentions of the Government as to future action on our proposals, and would be pleased to hear as to what the intentions are, and to again interview the Government if so desired, and

to further explain our desires in connection with the legislation proposed.

Trusting to hear from you at an early date, I remain, respectfully yours,

A. S. WELLS,
Secretary-treasurer.

The following reply was received, and the secretary complied with the request.

Victoria, September 4th, 1918.

A. S. Wells, Esq.,
Sec.-treas. B. C. Federation of Labor,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., further in reference to the legislative programme laid before the executive in March of this year. In reply I may advise you that I have had a careful search made of our files, and I find that the memorandum in question was sent to the Legislative committee of the house, from which it was not returned to this or any department. Your memorandum, therefore, is among the files of the committee and not available to me until the house meets.

Under the circumstances, I shall be greatly obliged if you will favor me with a copy of this minute, which I may assure you, upon receipt thereof, will have the careful consideration of the Government, following which you will be advised as to my decision that may be reached.

Regretting the necessity of imposing this extra work upon you, but believing you will understand the situation, I am, your truly,

(Signed) JOHN OLIVER

Nanaimo Disaster

The disaster at Nanaimo, being in the opinion of the executive due to non-enforcement of the laws of the province, the following letter was sent by the secretary to the premier, and the following reply was received:

September 14th, 1918.

Hon John Oliver,

Premier, Province of B. C.

Sir: The above Federation has repeatedly asked for a strict enforcement of the laws that are on the statute books, and that affect Labor.

The recent accident at Nanaimo is another instance of the fact that these laws are not enforced as they should be, and our executive feels that now that the government has been in office long enough to see that they are enforced, that no delay should be allowed in the strict enforcement of the law.

It is very evident, even on a cursory survey of the evidence taken at the inquest on the Nanaimo disaster victims, that the accident was brought about by sheer neglect, and lack of enforcement of the laws of the land. In the case of the Fernie miners, they are at this time on strike for "Safety First," and in view of the evidence that has been given to the government of the dangerous nature of the mines at Fernie, we are of the opinion that the demands of the men should be met.

Should you care to have our executive meet the members of the Government, we are prepared at any time to take these matters up with you or any member of the Government.

I remain, yours,

(Signed)

A. S. WELLS,
Secretary-treasurer.

Victoria, September 16th, 1918.

A. S. Wells, Esq.,

Sec.-treas. B. C. Federation of Labor,
Labor Temple, Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir: I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., having reference to the enforcement of the laws of the Province affecting Labor.

In reply, I may say that it is the solicitous desire of the Government to see that all laws for the protection of Labor are enforced to the fullest extent. The Government is, and stands prepared to consider representations made to us in respect thereto.

If your executive wish to meet the Provincial Executive and discuss these matters, speaking for myself and for my colleagues, I may assure you that you will experience no difficulty in arranging such a meeting.

Yours truly,

JOHN OLIVER.

Fernie Situation.

At this time the miners of the Crows Nest Pass were on strike for the one-shift, as a measure of safety due to the condition of the mines in that district. President Biggs and Secretary Browne of the Miners came to the Coast to see the government on this issue. Secretary Wells arranged an interview with the government on September 21, and the following representatives of the Federation with the Miners' representatives, waited on the government on that date: Vice-presidents Winch, Head, Trotter and the secretary.

President Biggs laid the situation as obtained at Coal Creek before the government and went into actual detail as to why the miners were on strike for

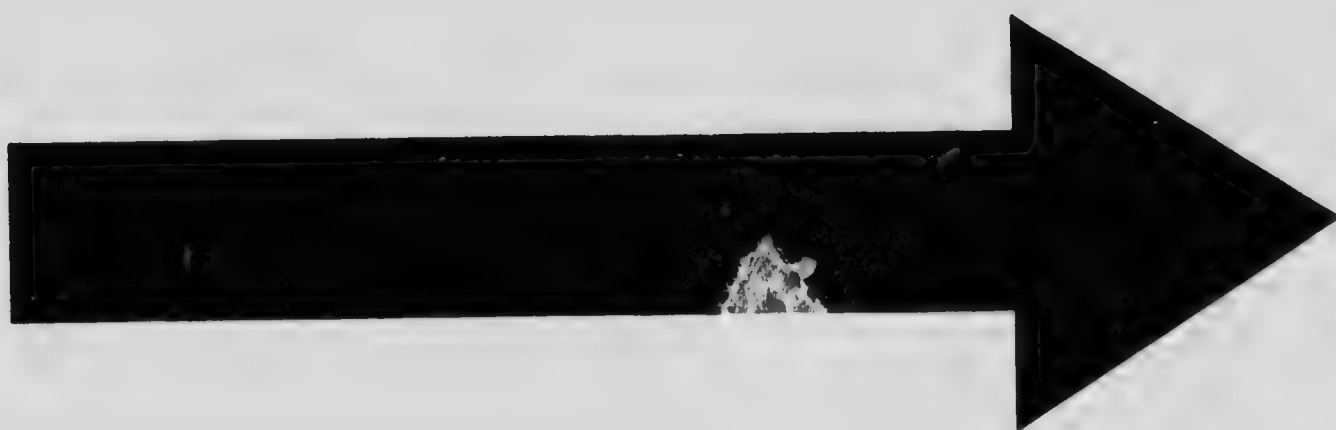
the one shift, pointing out that the men had decided that they would rather quit the district and seek employment in other places than they would risk their lives by returning to work under the double-shift system. He gave the conditions as they presented themselves to competent miners, stating that the mines could be worked to advantage on the single shift, and that expert advice had stated that the mines were only safe if worked on the single-shift basis. He also stated that a coroner's jury some time ago had recommended that the mines should be worked the one shift, and that the miners were prepared to keep up the output if the change was made. Mr. Browne also took the stand that the output would not be impaired, and that it was necessary if the lives of the miners were to be protected that the single shift must be instituted, stating that the mines in the Crow's Nest Pass were acknowledged to be the most dangerous mines in the world.

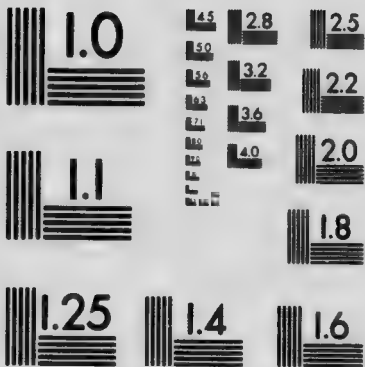
After considerable discussion the delegation suggested that the men return to work on the one shift pending the decision of the commission proposed by the Minister of Mines. This Mr. Sloan, on the suggestion of the Premier, agreed to submit to the management of the mines.

The delegation then took up the question of the enforcement of the laws pertaining to labor, and with special reference to Coal Mines Regulation Acts. The suggestion was also made that all acts such as the Factory Act, the Boiler Inspection Act and other acts pertaining to the safety of the workers be placed under the Workmen's Compensation Commission's jurisdiction, as this body is in possession of more information as to the cause of accidents, and the necessary precautions to prevent them than any other body in the province, and as this body has to administer the act which provides compensation it must be the most fitted body to deal with the laws that are framed to prevent accidents.

The question of electoral reforms was also taken up, proportional representation being the chief suggestion, and it was suggested that as a step towards the institution of this method of the election of the provincial representatives that the next elections in Vancouver and Victoria be conducted on this plan. Other reforms advocated were the elimination of the present property qualifications was also urged.

Dealing with educational matters,





MICROCOPY RESOLUTION TEST CHART
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS
STANDARD REFERENCE MATERIAL 1010a
(ANSI and ISO TEST CHART No. 2)

the government was urged to issue free all school supplies to the children attending the public schools of the province.

State sickness and unemployment insurance with free medical and hospital treatment was urged, as were mothers' pensions. The restrictions of child labor in any form under the age of sixteen was impressed on the government as being a necessity for the welfare of the children of the province.

Remedial legislation with the object of opening up all closed or company towns was urged, the attention of the government being called to the frequent complaints against the continued annoyances and injustices which are suffered by the workers who reside in these places. The Hon. T. D. Pattullo pointed out the difficulties with which the government was faced, and suggested to the delegation that the Federation make some concrete proposal that would solve the difficulty, and that while the government was anxious to do all possible to eliminate the evils complained of the matter was one of considerable difficulty, and the government would welcome some suggestion that would assist in solving the trouble.

Other matters such as the amendments to the Boiler Inspection Act, and for the proper instruction of all those working in connection with the operation of street and electric railways which were presented to the government in March last, were also brought to the attention of the government. The interview lasted from 11 in the morning until 1.45 p.m., and the various matters were dealt with at length, the delegation retiring with assurances from the government that they would deal with the different matters as they found that they were able to do so, pointing out that they were handicapped by the difficulty in getting the money to carry on the present work of the government without instituting any new legislation that would entail more expense.

One feature of the difficulties of the executive in presenting legislative proposals drawn up by the various locals, is the local's attempt to draft legislation, and while in so far as their drafts are concerned show that they have a fair idea as to what they want, sufficient attention is not given to the legislation already in effect when these drafts are made. In one instance Secretary Wells found a very serious fault in a proposal drawn up by one of the larger organizations, and

this at the time of presentation. He took advantage of the adjournment to place the matter before the members of this organization in Victoria. The members at once saw the mistake that had been made, and authorized him to change the draft. He at once wired to the Vancouver local of this organization, calling its attention to the fault. Much to the surprise of the legislative committee he received a wire back which stated that the union had placed its demands in the hands of a private member of the legislature, and asked the committee to co-operate with this individual. This the committee would not consider for a minute, and went ahead and acted as per the wishes of the Victoria local. It would seem impossible that any organization could place its interests in the hands of a private member of the House, after having the matter attended to by the convention, and by that gathering referred to the executive for attention. The executive has on other occasions been hampered by the actions of local unions who, after referring their interests to the Federation, interfere and offset the activities of the executive. This will also apply to officers in the movement.

Dominion Affairs

The various matters pertaining to Dominion legislation were referred to the Trades Congress of Canada. The following letter was sent to Secretary Draper, and the following reply was received:

February 19, 1918.

Mr. P. M. Draper.

Secretary-Treasurer

Trades Congress of Canada.

Dear Sir and Brother,—The following matters were dealt with at our recent convention, and as they are of a national character, I am referring them to your executive for action:

The nationalization of the medical and dental professions and hospital service, giving the people free medical, dental and hospital service.

The fixing of the price of War Standard flour. (Enclosed please find letter sent to H. B. Thompson on this subject.

The opposition of the convention was strongly expressed as against the importation of indentured Chinese, or any other kind of labor.

The government ownership of all cold storage plants, abattoirs, canneries, mills, mines and factories, railroads, and all the means of production and distribution. These measures were

urged as the only solution of the problem of the high cost of living.

Trusting your executive will deal with these questions, I remain,

Fraternally yours.

A. S. WELLS,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Ottawa, Ont.,
February 26, 1918.

Mr. A. S. Wells,
Secretary-Treasurer
B. C. Federation of Labor,
Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir and Brother.—I have your letter of the 18th instant submitting matters of a national character dealt with at your recent convention.

I have handed your correspondence to President Watters who will give consideration to the matter and make a report to the next meeting of the executive council of the Congress, anterior to meeting the Dominion government. You may rest assured that the propositions submitted by you shall receive careful consideration.

Fraternally yours,
(Signed) P. M. DRAPER,
Secretary-Treasurer.

The following wire was also sent to Premier Borden on the nationalization of cold storage plants, etc., as instructed by the convention:

Sir R. L. Borden, Premier,
Ottawa, Ont.

Recent convention of B. C. Federation of Labor urged the nationalization of cold storage plants, abattoir, mills, mines, factories and railroads as being only solution of high cost of living problem. This in turn would eliminate all profiteering in food products and munitions of war.

A. S. WELLS,
Secretary-Treasurer,
B. C. F. of L.

When it was seen that the government was to appoint representatives of labor on the boards of industrial organization, the following wire was sent by the secretary to the Premier:

Sir R. L. Borden,
Premier,
Ottawa, Ont.

Will labor representatives on proposed government board of industrial organization be appointed, or will labor be allowed to choose its own representatives?

A. S. WELLS,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Later in the year T. A. Stevenson, labor representative of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, wrote to the effect that he had requested the provincial government to ask the B. C. F. of L. to appoint a representative on the provincial commission to be formed. This the government did and the following letter was received from Hon. Dr. MacLean, provincial secretary:

Victoria, Dec. 23, 1918.

A. S. Wells, Esq.,
Secretary of the Provincial
Federation of Labor,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir,—It has been suggested to this government by Mr. Thomas A. Stevenson, labor representative of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, that a representative of Organized Labor be appointed to each Returned Soldiers' Commission established in Canada, and I am therefore writing you, on his suggestion, to request you to recommend a suitable person for appointment as a member of the Provincial Returned Soldiers' Commission.

An early reply would be much appreciated.

Yours truly,
(Signed) J. S. MacLEAN,
Provincial Secretary.

Vice-president Trotter's name was submitted as the representative of the Federation.

Allowances to Soldiers' Dependents

On the soldiers dependents becoming active in their demands for increased allowances, members of the executive in Vancouver assisted in all ways possible, and the following letter was sent to the Premier:

September 16, 1918.

Hon. Sir R. L. Borden,
Premier of the
Dominion of Canada.

Sir,—I am instructed to inform you that Organized Labor as represented by the above Federation, is in favor of the demands now being made by the dependents of the men now engaged in military service, for increased allowances.

Those demands are in effect, "That the government enact such legislation as will provide the soldiers' dependents with increased allowances to the extent of \$100 per month."

In view of the fact that the gov-

ernment has possibly the most accurate information as to the increased cost of living, as supplied by the Department of Labor, which shows that the increase is over 75 per cent. during the last four years, there should be no need for an extended agitation for this matter to be rectified by the government, and in view of the fact that the government was elected on a "Win the War" policy, and the men engaged in military service are doing their best to win the war, there should be no hesitation on the part of the government in granting to the dependents of these men the necessary allowance in order that they may not suffer from the absence of their men folk. As the men are giving their service to the nation it is necessary that the nation should protect their loved ones, and as the government is the only body that can give expression and put into effect the wishes of the nation, we call upon the government at this time to fulfill the pledges of the nation to the men serving in military service, by amply providing for those left behind. I remain,

Respectfully yours,

A. S. WELLS,

Secretary-Treasurer.

Returned Soldier Questions

It will be remembered that at the last convention a special committee was appointed to deal with the questions arising from the return of the soldiers from overseas. This committee became more or less dormant owing to the removal of several of its members. The committee was reorganized and Secretary Wells drew up a scheme for the care of the men during vocational training. This was submitted to the authorities, but was dropped owing to the fact that each organization seemed to desire to deal with the men that came under the jurisdiction of the trade or craft that it covered, and nothing could be done that would meet with the approval of the officers of these organizations. This was a mistake, and again shows the folly of leaving things to the executive of the Federation, if that body is to be interfered with by local officers and organizations. The scheme as outlined by the secretary is as follows:

Vocational Training for Returned Soldiers

"In dealing with this subject, there are many things to be considered, and which are of vital importance to the

returned men and the community at large.

The first is the method of training, and general experience would lead to the belief that trade schools are practically useless, and to make men efficient their training should be carried on under actual workshop conditions.

This can only be done by a system of apprenticeship, and in addition to technical training where available.

The next thing to be considered is the placing of the men in such trades as will most likely give them an opportunity of earning a livelihood, there being a danger that men may be placed in occupations that are already overcrowded, or most likely to become so.

Another matter of vital importance is the period of training. Men cannot be trained thoroughly in any trade in the period now allowed by the Dominion government, viz., one year.

To overcome these difficulties, and to deal intelligently with the different situations that may from time to time arise, we recommend that a central technical training advisory committee be established, who shall have power to appoint sub-committees in such districts as the committee deems advisable.

The central and sub-committees to be composed as follows: An equal number of representatives of Organized Labor, and the employers, and representatives of the returned soldiers.

The committees to act in conjunction with the Vocational Training Branch of the Hospitals Commission.

Their function to be as follows:

To advise the vocational training officers on the following questions:

1. As to the selection of candidates for training, having regard especially to their suitability for the trades.

2. As to the suitability of the training offered in technical schools or similar institutions.

3. As to the suitability of the training offered in workshops, with special reference to the prospects of permanent employment, and to the rate of wages offered at the termination of the training.

4. As to any other technical points arising out of the regulation of the trade.

5. To report to the vocational training officers if at any time, in their opinion, that a sufficient number of men have been trained in any particular trade, in any given area, having

regard to the number of men that any trade in the area in question would be reasonably expected to absorb.

To act as a prevention of men being inadequately trained the committee should have power to lay down the period of training in the trades selected, and where the committee deem advisable technical training should be adopted as well as workshop training.

The final selection of men for training in any given trade shall be left to the committee, in order to prevent men being trained that may be unsuitable to the trade, through any physical infirmity.

The first month of training should be a trial period, and if at the end of this period the man is considered unsuitable, the training shall cease.

In the case of workshop training, the employer shall agree at the end of the trial period, if the man proves suitable, to retain him in the workshop, until the end of the training period, and which shall be determined by the committee, unless if either party for some substantial reason desire to terminate the agreement, the case shall be referred to the committee, which shall after hearing evidence, have power to terminate the agreement.

Payment of Wages

Men undergoing training, irrespective of the vocational allowance provided by the government, shall be paid on the following basis:

The period of training to be divided into four parts.

The rate of pay for the first period to be 25 per cent. of the union rate of wages in the trade.

For the second period the rate of wages to be 40 per cent. of the union rate of wages in the trade.

For the third period, the rate of pay to be 60 per cent. of the union rate of wages.

For the fourth and final period of training, the rate of pay to be 75 per cent. of the union rate of wages in the trade.

In the event of the period of training lasting over one year, the period for which the government now makes vocational allowance, if the rate of wages being paid to the man in training is less than the amount that is allowed by the government, the government to pay such difference.

In the case of any man by special ability receiving more than the amounts specified, from the employer, this shall not affect the amount he will receive from the government, but shall

be looked upon as a bonus for special ability.

In the selection of men for training, preferential consideration shall be given to men that were formerly employed in the trade, and no new men to be introduced into the trade where, in the opinion of the committee, disabled men formerly employed in the trade are available."

Strikers Under Idlers Act

During the strike in May in the city of Winnipeg, certain press statements credited the Premier, Sir R. L. Borden, with having stated that strikers would be classed as idlers, and the following wire was at once dispatched to the Premier:

Victoria, B. C.,

May 31, 1918.

Rt. Hon. Sir R. L. Borden,

House of Commons,

Ottawa, Ont.

Press credits you with statement that men out on strike in city of Winnipeg in sympathy with Civic Employees, may be classed as idlers under recent order-in-council.

Organized Labor as represented by the British Columbia Federation of Labor, protests against any such attempt to curtail the workers in their efforts to secure decent conditions and wages.

A. S. WELLS,

Secretary-Treasurer.

Organization

Following out the intent of certain resolutions passed at the last convention, pertaining to the organization of the unorganized workers in the province, the secretary was instructed to communicate with the A. F. of L. and the different organizations affected. The following letter was sent to President Gompers:

March 4, 1918.

Mr. S. L. Gompers,

President American

Federation of Labor.

Dear Sir and Brother.—I have been instructed by the executive of the above Federation to write you in respect to organization work in this province.

They are of the opinion that there is much work that could be done amongst the unorganized workers, which would be of great benefit to the workers already organized.

Amongst the unorganized are the Timber Workers, all over this province. There must be in the neighbor-

hood of ten thousand men that are engaged in the timber and allied industries in the province, and from correspondence that we have had from the Timber Workers' international, they are unable for some cause to undertake the organization of these workers.

The United Mine Workers have a fairly good organization in the Crow's Nest Pass district, but on Vancouver Island that organization is very weak. Places like Nanaimo having no organization at all, and this place is one of the largest camps on the Island.

From information gathered from all over the districts, covered by our executive, we find that there is work for organizers in the following industries:

Teamsters, Retail Clerks, Laundry Workers, Garment Workers, and the workers in the woodworking mills. There are some other crafts that need organizing, but the above are the most essential and the largest.

British Columbia has two basic industries, viz., mining and timber, and they should be organized, as they cover the entire province, and would, if organized, have a powerful influence on all other organizations, and give a strength to the movement that could not be measured in dollars and cents. The executive recognize that for effective work in this province it will be essential for a general organizer to be appointed to undertake the work. The distances are so great, and the work so scattered, that to send an organizer for each particular craft or industry would entail an enormous cost, and would not be as effective as would one individual covering the different industries in the one district at the one time. They therefore suggest that the executive of the A. F. of L. give a sum of money to the Federation to carry on this work. They in turn would account for all expenditures entailed, and report on the work accomplished.

Failing the above method being adopted, they would suggest that the executive of the A. F. of L. appoint a general organizer for this province, and that he work in co-operation with our executive and to a certain extent under their guidance, thus using the Federation as a means of securing information that would assist him materially in his work, and at the same time using all the forces at the command of the Federation to accomplish the desired end.

Trusting that you will be able to grant our request, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

A. S. WELLS,
Secretary-Treasurer.

The following letter was received in reply from the president of the organization:

American Federation of Labor,
Washington, D. C.,

March 12, 1918

Mr. A. S. Wells,

Secretary-Treasurer British
Columbia Federation of Labor,
P. O. Box 1538, Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir and Brother,—Your favor of the 4th inst is received and contents noted. You state that there is excellent opportunity to organize the following trades: Teamsters, Retail Clerks, Laundry Workers, Garment Workers, Carpenters of the Woodworking Mills and the Timber Workers.

You ask that the A. F. of L. appropriate a sum for British Columbia Federation of Labor to carry on this organizing work. I regret that our funds do not permit of it at the present time. However, I have written to the several international unions asking them to do all in their power to assist in organizing the workers of their trade.

With best wishes, and hoping to hear from you whenever convenient, I am,

Fraternally yours,

SAMUEL GOMPERS,

President,

American Federation of Labor.

Each of the different internationals were communicated with, and considerable correspondence was carried on, but no results, the work of organizing the Timber Workers being at last undertaken by the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council.

The Case of William Jackson

It having been brought to the notice of the secretary that Wm. Jackson, a miner, sentenced to a long term as a result of charges, true or otherwise, laid against him during the Island strike of the miners, was in a very poor state of health, he was instructed to write to the Minister of Justice asking for his release. The following letter was sent, and the following reply received:

June 10, 1918.

Hon. T. J. Doherty,

Minister of Justice.

Sir,—I have been instructed by the executive of the British Columbia Fed

eration of Labor to ask for the release of William Jackson, now confined in the penitentiary for some crime, alleged that he committed during the coal mine strike on Vancouver Island in the year 1913.

From information we have received Jackson, if not released, will shortly be released by death, but we are given to understand that if he could be released that there is a chance of him regaining his health.

I trust that you will give this matter your very careful consideration, and let us have all possible information as to the state of the man's health. I remain,

Respectfully yours,
A. S. WELLS,
Secretary-Treasurer.
Canada

Department of the Secretary of State
No. 13596,
Remission
Register.

Ottawa, Ont.,
August 14, 1918.

Sir,—Referring to your letter of the 10th June last to the Minister of Justice, stating that William Jackson, now confined in the British Columbia Penitentiary, is in poor health, I beg to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General, does not see fit to exercise the prerogative of clemency in this case.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
• Your obedient servant,
Under-Secretary of State.

A. S. Wells, Esq.,
Secretary-Treasurer British
Columbia Federation of Labor.
P. O. Box 1538, Victoria, B. C.

Formation of Policemen's Union

On the formation of the Vancouver Policemen's Union there was considerable fluttering in the dovescotes of the ruling class. The representatives of the Federation stationed in Vancouver assisted all that was possible in the formation of this organization. The following communication, which is self-explanatory, was forwarded to the Premier:

Sept. 16, 1918.

Hon. Sir R. L. Borden,
Premier of the Dominion of Canada.

Sir,—The City Council of the city of Vancouver is asking the government to enact legislation which would make it illegal for policemen to organize and affiliate with any Trades and Labor Council.

I am instructed to write you to protest against any such legislation. We are of the opinion that the policemen or any other government or civic employees should have the right to organize and to affiliate with whom they will, in time which is their own.

Labor organizations are law-abiding organizations and have not in any case advocated the breaking of any law duly placed upon the statute books, and are not in any shape illegal organizations. In view of this fact we cannot see how there can be any differentiation between policemen and letter carriers, or between civic employees in any way and any other type of labor.

We therefore beg to enter a protest against any such legislation.

I remain,
Respectfully yours,
A. S. WELLS,
Secretary-Treasurer.

V. R. Midgley, representing the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council, being a delegate to the Trades Congress convention, was asked to place the matter before the convention by the following wire:

Victor R. Midgley,
c/o P. M. Draper,
Chateau Frontenac,
Quebec.

City Council petitioning government for legislation making it illegal for police and firemen to affiliate with Trades Councils. Suggest you bring matter up on floor in Congress.

A. S. WELLS.

Change of Convention City

The facts as to the reason for the change of the convention city are now well known. Your executive felt that it was a matter that the members should have a voice in, and as a result of that opinion a referendum vote was taken. As reported by the secretary, that referendum was carried by an overwhelming majority, and the delegates to this convention will have the opportunity to attend the Western Conference, with little additional expense on the part of the locals they represent.

Referendum on per capita tax

The referendum which was taken on the question of raising the per capita tax to provide each affiliated member with the B. C. Federationist was carried by a large majority of those vot-

ing, but with the information supplied by the Trustees, we could not see how it would be possible to put the proposal into effect. In the light of subsequent happenings, this decision proved a wise one, as the subscription price, which was \$1.00 per year to locals subscribing in a body, had to be raised in view of the increased cost of production, and the amount that would have gone to the Federationist if the proposal had have become effective would only have been 60 cents, whereas it is now \$1.25, a considerable difference.

We would recommend that the members of the executive resident on the lower mainland, and the Island, should be appointed to represent the interests of the Federation on the B. C. Federationist Ltd. This giving a wider representation on the board of directors, and at the shareholders' meetings.

Compensation Act

Realizing the importance of the administration of the Compensation Act, we would recommend that the executive be empowered to appoint a sub-committee to deal with the questions arising out of this act.

Conclusion

Many matters have been dealt with by the executive during the past year, matters that are too trivial to mention in a report of this kind, yet which in many instances affect the interests of a number of workers. Amongst the most important points not already mentioned, the case of Brother Goodwin was carefully watched, Vice-President Taylor representing the executive at the inquest and at the subsequent trial of the man who shot Brother Goodwin. In the case of the arrest of Brother Naylor, the members of the executive on the coast met and decided on the course to be followed. Instructing the secretary to do all that was requested of him, this he did, by sending out circulars, and having all the printing attended to. In the case

President Martin being engaged by the Miners, the matter was left much to him, but at all times was he assured of the support of the executive.

Efforts to combat the censorship and other methods of suppression, were made, but with a ruling class drunk with power, and backed up by a military machine that could not be ignored, very little was possible to be done. But one fact that should be borne in mind by the delegates at this convention is that the government of this land was elected by the working class, or it could not be in power. That other methods will have to be adopted in the future seems certain. The chance to take political action at the ballot box is often too remote a possibility, and instant action is necessary. This action can only be taken by members of the working class who are organized industrially. Many instances of the effectiveness of this line of action could be quoted. A minimum wage is useless when there are no jobs, and if the future is to have anything in store for the workers, it will only be so because of the knowledge of those workers. The present system of production for profit cannot longer feed the slaves of that system. As the workers are the slaves, it becomes necessary for them to take control of their destiny. This they can do by capturing the power of the state, by peaceful and constitutional means if they are available, if not by any means that are at hand. Get that power the workers must, in order to be free. The delegates to this convention should direct their energies along these lines, as by that method alone will the workers solve the great problem that faces them, which is the age-long problem of the proletariat, to free the working class from the bonds of slavery under the rule of a useless and parasitic class in society.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Executive

A. S. WELLS,
Secretary-treasurer.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

To the Officers and Delegates of the Ninth Annual Convention of the British Columbia Federation of Labor.

Herewith I submit for your consideration, the following financial statement and other matters and statistical information, pertaining to the office of Secretary-Treasurer for the year 1918:

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES Per Capita Tax Receipts

January	\$ 1247.05
February	48.24
April	22.80
May	106.11
June	412.22
July	646.79
August	228.72
September	146.27
October	16.32
November	117.00
December	117.46

Total\$3108.98

Political Campaign Deficit

The deficit left over from the campaign of 1917 in the Dominion elections covering the campaign in Vancouver and Victoria, amounted to the sum of \$929.95. This deficit had to be wiped off, and acting under the instructions of the executive, I made an appeal in March for donations from the locals affiliated in order to clear off this indebtedness. Returns, however, were not very satisfactory, so in April I issued another appeal, and the following sums were donated by the organizations who responded:

Electrical Workers, Vancouver..*	10.00
A.S.U.B. Carpenters, Victoria.....	25.00
Longshoremen, Victoria	10.00
Met. Trades Council, Vancouver ..	15.00
Miners Union, Trail.....	10.00
Meat Cutters and Butchers, Vancouver ..	5.00
Warehousemen, Vancouver	10.00
Pulp and Sulphite Workers, Powell River.....	10.00
Railway Carmen, Vancouver.....	5.00
Machinists 182, Vancouver.....	10.00
Bookbinders, Vancouver	2.00
Barbers, Vancouver	5.00
Garment Workers, Vancouver.....	5.00
Moving Picture Operators, Vancouver ..	2.25
Boilermakers, Vancouver	10.00

U. B. Carpenters, New Westminster	50.00
Steam Engineers, Vancouver.....	10.00
Barbers, Victoria	5.00
United Mine Workers, South Wellington	10.00
Civic Employees, Vancouver.....	15.00
U. B. Carpenters 617, Vancouver ..	10.00
Machinists, Victoria	5.00
Miss Gutteridge, Vanc. dance.....	15.00
Printers No. 5, Victoria.....	10.00
A. S. U. B. Carpenters, Vanc.....	10.00
Machinists, New Westminster.....	10.00
Hedley Miners	10.00
Street Railway Employees, New Westminster	10.00
Typographical Union, Vanc.....	18.50
B. C. Federationist Fund.....	27.25
J. Winn, Victoria.....	9.10

Total\$359.10

The balance had to be paid from the General Funds of the Federation.

DISBURSEMENTS

January

J. Naylor, office requisites.....*	6.35
Cowan & Brookhouse, printing.....	50.00
B. C. Federationist, printing.....	50.00
B. C. Telephone Co., phone.....	10.95
Vic. T. Council, long dist. phone ..	4.20
A. S. Wells, salary Nov. and Dec., 1917, post and exp.....	70.30
J. Naylor, attending executive sessions.....	16.00
W. Yates, at. exec. sessions.....	6.00
A. Goodwin, at. exec. sessions.....	8.00
W. E. Thompson, at. exec. sess.....	19.00
W. Head, at. exec. sessions.....	16.35
J. Taylor, at. exec. sessions.....	11.00
A. S. Wells, salary January, attending exec. sessions, wages.....	103.12
Total	\$362.27

February

J. H. McVety, Labor Tem. emp.* ..	25.00
Vancouver Labor Temple Co., rent and long dist. phone.....	7.10
W. A. Sherman, at. exec. session ..	16.00
J. Taylor, at. exec. sessions.....	3.00
W. Head, at. exec. sessions.....	13.95
W. E. Thompson, at. exec. sess.....	16.00
Macey Company, office supplies.....	12.20
B. C. Federationist, Ltd., convention proceedings.....	350.00
B. C. Telephone Co., phone.....	10.35

A. S. Wells, attending executive sessions and getting out proceedings	36.27
A. E. Greenwood, check stamp....	1.20
Postage on proceedings and expressage	22.89
A. S. Wells, salary	50.00
Long dist. phone and express ..	1.45
Total	\$565.11

March

M. Martin, attending meeting with government, on acct.....	75.00
A. S. Wells, meeting government re minimum wage bill and legislation	22.50
B. C. Telephone Co., phone.....	5.35
Phil. R. Smith, political campaign expenses	35.00
Macey Office Supply Company, office supplies	24.10
E. Winch, wires re Russians.....	2.80
Total	\$164.75

April

Phil. R. Smith, campaign exp.	30.00
A. S. Wells, salary, March.....	50.00
A. S. Wells, postage	8.15
Trades Congress per capita tax.....	10.00
Postmaster Victoria, Box rent....	3.00
A. S. Wells, meeting re Compensation Act.....	17.25
B. C. Telephone Co., phone.....	4.30
Cowan & Brookhouse, printing.....	4.50
J. H. McVety, meeting re Compensation Act.....	50.50
A. S. Wells, meeting re Compensation Act.....	5.00
Cowan & Brookhouse, campaign expenses	35.00
Total	\$217.70

May

Phil. R. Smith, campaign exp.	50.00
B. C. Telephone Co., phone.....	3.25
A. S. Wells, postage, etc.....	3.75
W. Head, at. exec. meeting.....	26.00
A. S. Wells, at. exec. meeting.....	8.25
A. S. Wells, salary, April.....	50.00
M. Martin, bal. attending meeting with government.....	45.00
Wires, etc.	4.08
B. C. Federationist, on acct. political campaign	25.00
Total	\$215.33

June

J. H. McVety, long dist. phone.*	7.70
Labor Temple Co., long dist. ph.	7.05

Victoria Typewriter Exchange, repairs	2.50
Macey Office Equipment Co., desk and office supplies	40.60
Victoria Trades Council for long-distance phone.....	70
A. S. Wells, salary, May.....	50.00
B. C. Federationist, card.....	2.50
A. S. Wells, postage and wires....	4.45
B. C. Telephone Co., phone.....	3.25
Phil. R. Smith, campaign exp....	50.00
A. S. Wells, wires and postage..	5.09
B. C. Federationist, camp'n ex...	75.00

Total **\$241.84**

July

A. S. Wells, salary, June.....	50.00
B. C. Federationist, balance campaign expenses	82.50
A. S. Wells, removing desks, etc	12.00
A. S. Wells, phone.....	5.00
Cowan & Brookhouse, printing	100.00
B. C. Telephone Co., phone, June	4.56
Vancouver Labor Temple, Co., rent convention hall.....	50.00

Total **\$305.06**

August

A. S. Wells, salary, July.....	50.00
A. S. Wells, postage and wires....	2.21
Phil. R. Smith, campaign exp....	106.00
Phil. R. Smith, campaign exp....	112.95
Labor Temple Co., campaign ex.	19.50
Cowan & Brookhouse, printing, campaign expenses.....	100.00
J. Taylor, at. exec. meeting.....	8.00
A. S. Wells, salary, August.....	50.00

Total **\$442.66**

September

A. S. Wells, postage, exchanges and wires.....	9.46
W. W. Lefaux, transcript Goodwin case.....	5.00
E. T. Kingsley, campaign exp....	25.00
A. S. Wells, postage re Naylor defence	7.50
B. C. Telephone Co.....	1.05
Phil. R. Smith, campaign exp....	10.00
Cowan & Brookhouse printing Naylor case.....	26.00
B. C. Federationist, card.....	4.50
Naylor Defense Fund.....	50.00
A. S. Wells, wires.....	4.34
W. B. Trotter, meeting govt.....	14.75
W. Head, meeting government..	14.75
E. Winch, meeting government..	14.75
A. S. Wells, meeting government	14.75
A. S. Wells, salary.....	50.00
B. C. Federationist, card.....	2.00

Total **\$253.85**

October

B. C. Telephone Co., phone	\$ 2.10
Trades Congress, per capita tax	10.00
Macey Office Equipment Co., office supplies	7.27
A. S. Wells, postage and sup.....	3.15
A. S. Wells, salary, postage and exchange	52.30
Total	\$ 74.82

November

Labor Temple Co., bal. of acct. \$	9.45
Cowan & Brookhouse, printing..	56.20
D. McCallum, wires.....	4.00
B. C. Telephone Co., phone.....	2.00
V. R. Midgley, postage re Western Conference.....	10.00
V. R. Midgley, postage re Western Conference.....	3.00
Total	\$ 84.65

December

A. S. Wells, salary, wires and postage	\$ 53.57
J. H. McVety, re compensation cases	14.75
A. S. Wells, re compensation cases	14.75
B. C. Federationist, card.....	4.00
A. S. Wells, wires and postage.....	9.30
Miss Gutteridge, campaign exp..	79.00
Brown Bros., wreath.....	10.00
B. C. Telephone Co., phone	3.60
Total	\$184.97

RECAPITULATION

Total Receipts for the Year

Per capita tax receipts.....	\$3108.93
Political campaign fund.....	359.10
Balances from last year.....	114.80
Total	\$3582.83

Total Disbursements

General	\$2187.36
Political campaign	929.95
Total	\$3117.31
Total income	\$3582.83
Total expenditures	3117.31
Balance	\$ 465.52

Referendum on Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

The following referendum was referred to the affiliated organizations on February 18th:

1. Proposed Amendment to Article XII—Revenue

That the per capita tax be raised from two cents per member per month

to seven cents per member per month. Each member of the affiliated unions, on whom per capita tax is paid, to receive each week a copy of The B. C. Federationist, mailed to his home address.

2. Proposed Amendment to Article XV—Petition and Referendum

To add the following as Section 2 to Article XV:

Recall of Officers—Any organization affiliated with the Federation shall have the right to call for a referendum vote for the recall of any officer; providing, that they obtain the endorsement of twenty-five per cent. of the affiliated organizations.

They shall be required to give full information as to the reasons for such recall to the Secretary-treasurer of the Federation, who shall issue same to the membership at the time the referendum is submitted, along with the defense of the officer, whose recall is asked for.

Organizations demanding a referendum to recall any officer, should they fail in securing the recall of such officer, will be required to bear the expense of the referendum.

Proposal No. 2 requires little comment, as it is only a necessary provision for the democratic management of the Federation.

Proposal No. 1, however, is of such importance as to warrant some little comment and explanation.

In the first place, the need for all workers to read the Labor press must be recognized, and many and varied schemes have been tried in order to establish the B. C. Federationist as a medium of information for the organized workers.

To date the paper has not received the support that it is worthy of, and, as a result, the movement in the province is not as well informed as it should be on the affairs that vitally affect the workers.

The B. C. Federationist is the best paper of its kind in the country. In addition to that, its news columns are devoted to giving the true state of affairs—which is not the case in the ordinary newspapers of the country—and questions that affect the workers are dealt with from a working-class viewpoint.

With a wider circulation of the paper, there would be little doubt as to the growth of the movement. Twelve thousand affiliated members receiving

the paper weekly would ensure twenty-five thousand workers in the province becoming readers, and, as a consequence, they would become better informed as to actual conditions, as they affect workers of the province.

The cost of the paper to the individual under the proposed amendment, would be a fraction over a cent a copy. At present many of the affiliated organizations are paying one dollar per year for their copies, when obtained by the organization subscribing in a body.

The proposal, if adopted, will place the paper in the hands of the affiliated members at a cost of sixty cents per year, which, in itself, is a considerable saving.

In conclusion, the affiliation of the local unions can be obtained at a cost of eighty-four cents per member per year, which will carry with it a subscription to the B. C. Federationist, and which cannot, under the old arrangement, be secured at less than one dollar and twenty-four cents per member per year.

It is only through such an arrangement as the proposed amendment offers, that the cost of the paper to the individual can be reduced to what must be evident to all, as being the lowest possible charge.

Respectfully submitted,
A. S. WELLS,
Sec.-Treasurer.

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Question No. 1—Proposed Amendment to Article XII—Revenue

That the per capita tax be raised from two cents per member per month, to seven cents per member per month. Each member of the affiliated unions, on whom per capita tax is paid, to receive each week a copy of The B. C. Federationist, mailed to his home address.

Voting in Favor
Voting Against

Question No. 2—Proposed Amendment to Article XV—Petition and Referendum

To be added following as subsection to Article XV:

Recall of Officers—Any organization affiliated with the Federation, shall have the right to call for a referendum vote, for the recall of any officer; providing, that they obtain the endorsement of twenty-five per cent. of the

affiliated organizations.

They shall be required to give full information, as to the reasons for such recall to the Secretary-treasurer of the Federation, who shall issue same to the membership at the time the referendum is submitted along with the defense of the officer whose recall is asked for.

Organizations demanding a referendum to recall any officer, should they fail in securing the recall of any officer, will be required to bear the expense of the referendum.

Voting in Favor

Voting Against

All ballots must be signed by the President and Secretary of the organization voting, and returned to this office not later than April the 4th, 1918, or they will be invalid.

Name of Organization

President..... Secretary.....

Address of Secretary.....

Both of the above proposals were carried, proposal No. 2 by a large majority, and as the action of the executive on the putting into effect of proposal No. 1 is dealt with in the executive committee's report, there is nothing to be gained by dealing with the returns in mine.

Western Conference Referendum

Acting on the instructions of the executive, I submitted the following referendum on the holding of a Western Conference, on October the 25th. Owing to the prevalence of Spanish influenza, the local unions were not able to vote on the proposal until some considerable time after the referendum was submitted.

To All Affiliated Organizations, Greeting:

The recent convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, was so unsatisfactory to the representatives of organized labor in the west, that in practically every instance, the delegates on their return, voiced their dissatisfaction, and stated that the division between the East and West, in so far as the Labor movement is concerned, is so great as to warrant some steps being taken to give the western members of organized Labor some avenue through which to express its views.

Following the convention referred to above, the representatives of Labor from the West held a conference. This conference was made up of representatives of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. At this gathering, it was decided to recommend

to all Labor organizations of the four provinces mentioned, that a Western conference be held prior to the next convention of Congress. With this end in view, the following officers were elected to call the conference, and to arrange the details: Dave Rees, Vancouver, chairman; V. R. Midgley, Vancouver, secretary; F. Wheatley, Banhead, Alberta; H. Perry, Regina, Saskatchewan; E. Robinson, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

It must be fully understood that the idea of holding this conference is not a secessionist movement, but a movement to give expression to the aims and objects of organized Labor in the West, and which was not possible at the Congress convention, owing to the domination of the convention by the Eastern representatives, and which was made possible by the holding of the convention in the East, and as the next convention will also be held in the East, some means must be provided for the Western movement, which is different to that of the East, to give expression to its sentiments. This is most important in view of the serious situation that is likely to develop in the near future as a result of the cessation of hostilities in Europe, and the period of reconstruction that must follow.

Chairman Rees, and Secretary Midgley of the committee appointed by the Western representatives, has suggested to your executive, the advisability of holding the next convention of the B. C. Federation of Labor at Calgary. The object being to have the Alberta Federation of Labor hold its annual convention in the same city at the same time. At the close of the conventions, the representatives of the movement in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, where there are no provincial federations, along with the delegates to the British Columbia and Alberta Federation conventions, will form into a conference of representatives of Labor from the four Western provinces. With the object of defining the programme of Labor in the West towards national problems. The usual procedure as to provincial matters will be carried out during the first three days or more if necessary, and the Western conference will not be called together before the provincial needs are attended to. By this method, it is expected that a large and representative conference of Western Labor men can be held, with the least possible expense to the movement.

The executive is aware that this

programme can not be carried out without consulting the affiliated organizations, as the next convention was to have been held at Victoria, B. C., as was determined by the last annual convention, and the following question is, therefore, submitted to the affiliated organizations for a referendum vote. Local unions should take the vote as early as possible in order that the executive may be in a position to prepare for the proposed conference at Calgary, or to carry out the detail work necessary for the holding of the annual convention in Victoria, as decided at the last convention, should the vote be unfavorable to the proposal.

Respectfully submitted,
A. S. WELLS, Secretary-treasurer.

Official Ballot

Question: That the annual convention of the B. C. Federation of Labor be held in the City of Calgary, in order that a conference of the representatives of Labor in the West can be held at the close of the convention.

Voting in favor.....

Voting Against.....

ALL ballots must be signed by the President and Secretary of the organization voting, and returned to this office at the earliest possible moment. In view of the influenza epidemic, and the cessation of meetings, and the uncertainty as to when they will be resumed, no time limit for the return of ballots is being set, but local officers will confer a favor on the executive by making the returns at the earliest possible moment. This is most important.

Name of organization.....

President—

Secretary—

Address of Secretary—

The voting on the proposal to change the convention city resulted as follows: Voting in favor, 2963; against 391, or a majority in favor of 2572. Other locals that voted in favor notified me to that effect by marking unanimous on the ballot papers, or by sending letters giving that information, as this was not in accord with the official ballot, these votes were not counted, or the majority would have been double.

During the year I sent out questionnaires as to the number of Asiatics employed, and as to the unorganized workers in the different districts. I also endeavored to get such information as would be of assistance to the executive in dealing with returned soldier questions, especially with respect to voca-

tional training. I am sorry to say that, due to the small attention paid by the locals to these questions, and the few replies received, that the effort was fruitless, as it is impossible to form any practical conclusions on such small returns.

On the death by shooting of Brother Goodwin, I secured the transcript of the evidence taken at the preliminary hearing of Campbell, the Dominion policeman who shot him, but the results were just as was expected, not sufficient evidence was brought against him, and he got off Scott free, later to brag of his deeds.

On the arrest of Bros. Naylor and Aitken, at the request of the committee formed at Cumberland, I had circulars printed and mailed them to the various organizations throughout the province, and all trades councils in the Dominion. The result of the trial of Bro. Naylor, when he was found not guilty, was hailed all through the Province with a deal of satisfaction, as it was realized that this was only another attempt to get rid of Bro. Naylor that had failed.

Following the last convention, I made sufficient copies of the legislative proposals as laid down at the convention, to supply every member of the Provincial Legislature with a copy, and each member received a copy, so that no one of them could not say that they did not know the desires of Labor.

Membership

Since the last convention, the membership has grown considerably. This will be seen if the per capita tax receipts are compared with those of 1917. Many organizations have become affiliated, amongst which are the metalliferous miners at Moyie and Prince Rupert, the Shipwrights of Victoria, the Railroad Employees, Revelstoke, and several others. The affiliated membership at present is at the least 15,500, where at the last convention it had not gone very much beyond the 12,000 mark. These figures are liable to be conservative, as they were taken on the last payment of per capita tax in 1918 in most instances, and only the new affiliations are figured on this year's reports, and it will not really represent the total membership, for the first half of this year. In many instances, the per capita tax payments so far this year greatly exceed the amount paid last year, again there is to be taken into consideration the closing down of the metalliferous mining

industry in some camps. Taken all round, we have much to congratulate ourselves on at the position of the Federation, which is better in all respects at this date, than it has ever been before.

The office of Secretary-treasurer includes many little duties which cannot be fully recorded, from assisting in the organization of local unions in different parts, to looking after some little trouble for individual members of organized labor.

Conclusion

After five years as secretary, and fully realizing the limitations of such an organization as the Federation in its scope, until the workers realize their position in society, I am more than ever convinced, that even when the last struggle takes place, that our industrial organizations, and the central local and provincial bodies, can be made great factors in the working class movement. With conditions in other countries to guide us, we should realize that when the final clash comes, that organization of any kind on working class lines will be of great benefit. We must also realize that political action, can and will take on other forms than ballot box action. I can look back to the time when many prominent Socialists in this Province decried the industrial organizations as useless. I could never see this viewpoint, and circumstances have on more than one occasion, shown us during the past year, the benefit of industrial organization, with a class-conscious membership. Our aims must be in the future, to organize, and to educate, the form of organization will be determined by the knowledge of the workers. It may, however, be that little time will be left to us to organize before we are faced with the end of capitalism, but what little time there is, it must be used in educational work. I am of the opinion that the Federation has been one of the greatest factors in educating the workers of this Province, and feel that it has filled the function for which it was organized, which is set out in the preamble to the constitution. Thanking those that have assisted me during the years I have held the office of Secretary-treasurer, I submit this report with the hope that it will meet with the approval of the convention.

Respectfully submitted,

A. S. Wells,
Secretary-treasurer.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE'S REPORT

To the Officers and Delegates of the Ninth Annual Convention of the B. C. Federation of Labor.

The Compensation Act committee, consisting of James H. McVety, (chairman), Vancouver; Wm. Yates, New Westminster, and A. S. Wells, secretary-treasurer, continued its work during the period since the last convention, construing its duties to include: Advice to workmen regarding claims; assistance in presenting claims and in securing rehearings where decisions appear unfair and not in accordance with merits; taking up cases with board where claimant resides away from places where board holds sessions or when claimant so requests; keeping "approved" medical aid schemes under observation and generally observing the class of medical and hospital attention furnished by either the board or medical aid associations; watching proposed amendments to the act and advising government of approval or opposition and keeping in touch with the progress of compensation legislation in the various countries of the world.

Committee Reports Through Fed.

A number of matters of topical interest have been dealt with from time to time in the columns of the Federationist, but for purposes of record will be briefly touched upon in this report. Immediately after the last convention the committee received a copy of amendments proposed to the act by the Compensation Board. Some were found to have merit while others were considered unfavorable. An interview was arranged with the Hon. Mr. Farris, attorney general, and the views of the committee placed before him. With one exception, he agreed with the views of the committee and on that point of difference an appeal was taken to the Executive Council where a short argument resulted in the Prime Minister accepting the view of the committee. The following is a summary of the amendments and their disposition by the committee.

Amendments Approved

(1) To include employees of the provincial government who would be

covered if employed by a private employer.

(2) Widen the definition of the word "person" to include "any body corporate or politic."

(3) Giving the board power to extend the scope of the act to include other industries and occupations.

(4) Permitting the board to pay compensation to workmen suffering from permanent disablement, other than disfigurement of the head, which is already provided for.

(5) Providing that where a medical aid scheme has been approved by the board it may authorize employers to deduct the amount agreed upon from the wages of employees and may order the employer to pay the amount over to the proper parties.

Note—A mining company at Silverton, B. C., deducted the money from the wages of the employees and then refused to pay it to the doctors selected by the workmen.)

(6) Giving the board power to require employers to maintain such first aid appliances as are deemed necessary.

(7) Giving power to the board to require the deductions of one per cent per day to be paid in to board as frequently as board requires.

(8) Giving power to board to require safety devices and permitting closing of all or part of plants refusing to carry out instructions regarding installations. Also increasing penalties for failure to carry out regulations.

(9) Permitting board to decide cases on "real merits and justice of case" and not to be bound by legal precedents.

Amendments Opposed

The proposal of the board to give itself the powers of plaintiff, judge and jury and court of appeal was opposed by the committee, being of the opinion that the scheme was both vicious and arbitrary. Mr. Farris stated he had already decided not to grant any such powers.

The board had asked for power to compel employers to transport injured workmen, evidently with the idea of

transferring some of its own responsibilities. This was also struck out.

Non-Resident Alien Dependents

On the question of reducing the compensation of non-resident alien dependents under the guise of increasing the payment to widows with more than four children, Mr. Farris was obdurate. He believed that the compensation should be reduced and that it was unfair to send so much money out of the country thus enabling foreign dependents to live better than those resident. The employers were not going to escape any lighter and he thought it was all right to increase the compensation of some of the resident dependents at the expense of those living in other countries. The committee recited the history of the question since it first arose under the old compensation act and had been taken to the Privy Council for a decision. When the present act was before the government of the day the same questions had again arisen and the government had agreed with the workmen that there should not be any difference between the resident dependents and those who had not or could not take up their residence in this country. The workmen of the province were not disposed to agree to reducing the compensation for the alleged advantage of securing a slightly higher allowance for those who had more children than provided for in the act.

Appeal to the Executive Council

When it was seen that Mr. Farris was determined not to agree, the committee asked for an appointment with the cabinet and after a few minutes the Premier, Mr. Oliver, agreed that the amendment should be deleted and as a matter of fact it should not have been inserted.

Board's Propaganda

The Compensation Board has carried on a persistent campaign to secure approval for the proposal to reduce the compensation payments to non-resident alien dependents. An attempt was made to take advantage of prejudices against Asiatics and it was not until closely questioned would the board admit that all non-resident aliens would be affected.

In one letter sent out by the chairman of the board a word picture is drawn of a Chinese widow with her

automobile, maids and luxuries living highly at the expense of the industries in the province of B. C. Generally speaking the campaign was unsuccessful. This question was raised before the executive of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council by one of the members, but without avail, as the officers of the central body were well acquainted with the trouble as to aliens under the old Act, and took the same stand as did your committee.

The position of the committee, shortly, is that if the employing class objects to money collected from B. C. industries being sent to dependents in foreign countries the units of that class have the solution in their own hands. All that is necessary is to employ citizens and returned men or make their mills, factories and mines so that deaths will be reduced to a minimum. It is not the opinion of the committee that the payment of the money taken from the non-resident aliens to resident widows and children would be a mitigating circumstances for the violation of a principle for which the workers of this province and Canada generally have stood out so strongly and successfully. The committee looks forward with confidence to a reiteration on the part of the delegates of their position on this question.

Committee Asks Increase

Owing to the higher cost of living, the committee asked Mr. Farris to follow the example of the British Government and, as a war measure, increase the compensation 25 per cent. This, Mr. Farris said, the Government was unable to agree to, as the employers would have to be consulted, and there were no other provinces paying any higher percentages or following the practice of England.

Ask That Musicians Be Included

That musicians employed in theatres and moving picture house should be included under the act as are moving picture operators and stage bands, contended the committee, Mr. Farris pointing out that with the amendment, the board would have power to add these men.

Hawthornthwaite Amendments

The member for Newcastle introduced an amendment to include "miners"

phthisis" and "acquired hernia," and the committee spoke in favor of the inclusion of both of these disablements in the industrial schedule. Mr. Farris declared that to include miners consumptive miner in the country to come to this province, and this the government was not prepared to do at this time. On the hernia question, he was not so positive, but thought that a conference and a wider interpretation by the board would cure, at least to some extent, the necessity of including hernia any more positively than at present covered.

1919 Legislature

The committee has taken up a new batch of amendments proposed by the Compensation Board, approving of a considerable number that in no way adversely affected the interests of the workers. Successful opposition was put up to the proposal to reduce the compensation to non-resident aliens, the attorney general deciding the matter without necessitating a visit to the cabinet. One or two other proposals of the board were struck out, one seeking to change a principle in connection with the medical aid, and the other seeking powers that would enable the board to harass any employer who might fall into its bad graces by acting as plaintiff, judge, court of last resort and sheriff to collect its own penalties.

Administration Discussed

A number of questions regarding the administration of the act were discussed with the attorney general, and he suggested a conference between the board, our committee and himself, to take place after the adjournment of the house.

Services Available to Workers

During the year the services of the members of the committee individually or collectively have been placed at the disposal of workers or dependents, regardless of trade union or political affiliation or nationality. Advice and assistance has been rendered to many hundreds either orally or by correspondence, the committee dealing with cases from the North as far as Prince Rupert and east to Lucerne on the Canadian Northern Railway, in addition to a few from outside the province.

Conferences With Board

Many conferences were held with the board during the year and its attitude toward the committee has undergone a marked change to that reported at the last convention. Our assistance appears to be welcomed and the members anxious to meet our views as far as possible. The committee, however, finds itself frequently in conflict with the board, particularly over the decisions in hernia cases and in the importance attached to the reports of medical men by the board. There appears to be many medical practitioners who imagine they are still employed by insurance companies or employers and who aim to reduce the compensable period for the workmen to the shortest possible time, and often, in the opinion of the committee, reporting men fit for work long before they reach that degree of recovery. Others make one report to the board and another to the injured workmen, resulting in considerable hard feeling that could be avoided.

On the decisions of the board in hernia cases and cases of strain, the committee finds itself absolutely out of harmony with the board and, while admitting the difficulty of handling these cases, the committee believes that the decisions are too narrow. One case in particular, from Victoria, where a workman was ruptured while carrying an armature, came before our committee. A rehearing was arranged in Victoria and two members of the committee attended. After listening to the evidence of the injured workman, other workmen witnesses and the medical men, the committee was of the opinion that the claim should have been allowed. The decision, however, was against the workman, and in addition to not receiving compensation he had to meet the bill for surgery himself. This is a matter that will be discussed in the joint conference with the Attorney-General.

"Safety First"

The committee does not feel that the board is getting the maximum results owing to the failure to carry out that portion of the act providing for joint committees of employers and workmen, which would give greater publicity to such rules and appliances as might be decided to be of advantage. That this work should be pushed more vigorously will be conceded when it is remem-

bered that practically every second workman in the province has been injured since the act went into force two years ago.

The Sophia Disaster

Near the close of the year the steamer Princess Sophia was lost with all hands in northern American waters. The committee found that the dependents of members of the crew were being written to by a legal firm in Vancouver and that they were being advised to bring action against the C. P. R. under the common law. In fact one action was started and the committee immediately notified the dependents through the Federationist that they were covered by the act and had no right of action. Since that time the C. P. R. has decided to contest the constitutionality of the act and has started an action seeking an injunction restraining the compensation board from paying the pensions to dependents. The Attorney-General has secured the services of Mr. S. S. Taylor, K. C., and instructed that the ques-

tion be carried, if necessary, to the Privy Council. Whatever may be the company's legal position, its moral position, if a corporation can be said to have any morals, is extremely bad. The company agreed to the inclusion of its employees and the act was amended to meet possible constitutional obstacles pointed out by the company's solicitor. The act has been in force two years and it is only when the company is called upon to meet the full cost of paying the dependents, some \$200,000, that the constitutional question arises.

In Conclusion

The committee has kept in close touch with new acts and amendments in Canada and the United States but is unable to discern any substantial improvements that have been secured.

Fraternally submitted,

A. S. WELLS,

WM. YATES,

JAS. H. McVETTY,
Chairman.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

As trustees of the Federation, appointed to represent the Federation interests in the B. C. Federationist, we beg to report as follows:

Finance

In the early months of the year the financial position of the paper was none too good, but at the end of the year the financial statement shows that a profit of \$1264.31 was made. This in spite of the fact that considerable difficulties were encountered in securing advertising owing to the attitude taken by the paper on many questions.

Management

In June a change was made in the management of the paper, R. P. Pettipiece resigning from that position. A. S. Wells was appointed to the position by the unanimous decision of the board of directors. A noticeable feature during the year has been the harmony prevailing on the directorate, more meetings of the board having been held than in any previous year, and any matter on which there could have been any division as to the management or policy of the paper, has been on all occasions referred to the directors. That the paper is filling a want is proven by the phenomenal increase in the circulation during the last half of the year, while at this time the circulation is near the 20,000 mark; the business has increased, and the financial position of the paper is sound.

Editorials

The same policy as to editorials has been maintained, and while a change was made in the editorial writer, there has been no departure from the policy of expounding the philosophy of the working class, from the Socialist viewpoint. Without fear or favor, the position of the working class in society has been shown on all questions.

Difficulties owing to censorship were encountered. The directors were requested to sign a document by the chief press censor, that was not only

untrue, but which would have placed every member of the board of directors within the pale of the law for sedition, the board unanimously refused to sign this document, but realizing the government had seized the psychological moment, when the suppression of the paper would have been possible, the directors took the only stand possible and kept the paper going, and that their decision was a wise one is now apparent, as the paper is so firmly established at this time, that it would be a hard thing to attempt to close it down with a circulation of 20,000.

Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting of the shareholders held recently, W. Pritchard was elected to represent the Trades and Labor Council of Vancouver, in place of J. H. McVety, whose term expired. F. Knowles was elected as secretary treasurer. V. R. Midgley of the Vancouver Trades Council is president of the company.

Conclusion

While at the last convention it was expected that the affiliation of local unions with the Federation would carry with it a subscription to the paper for every member, this was found to be impossible owing to increased cost of production, and to the fact that the proposal, if adopted, would have placed the paper in financial difficulties. Local unions, however, have subscribed in a body, showing that in spite of the increased cost, that they know the usefulness of a Labor Press. With the splendid co-operation and good feeling that now exists, there is no reason why the coming year should not see the circulation doubled. It is also expected that a twelve-page paper will be issued in the near future, and at a later date a semi-weekly paper is possible.

Respectfully submitted,
D. McCALLUM,
A. S. WELLS.

Constitution of the British Columbia Federation of Labor

CHARTERED BY TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS OF CANADA.
ORGANIZED MAY 2, 1910

PREAMBLE

The British Columbia Federation of Labor is organized for the purpose of voicing the needs and aspirations of Labor, legislatively and otherwise, and to provide a place for worthy members of its affiliated unions to participate in the discussion of those practical problems, upon the solution of which depends their welfare as workers, individually and collectively.

With the introduction of the modern machinery of production and the harnessing of the forces of nature, it is only fitting that the wealth producers should participate in the benefits derived.

We, therefore, pledge ourselves to unceasingly demand a universal workday of eight hours or less; so long as labor power is sold as a commodity.

We believe there is more efficacy in electing working-class representatives to write the law than by supplicatory methods, and our efforts will be more in that direction in the future.

We are firmly convinced that the future belongs to the only useful people in human society—the working-class.

The delegate members hereof do constitute and adopt the following rules for the government of the Federation:

Article 1.—Name

Section 1. This body shall be known as "The British Columbia Federation of Labor."

How Composed

Section 2. Any Trades or Federal Labor Union or any Central Body, District Board, Building Trades Council, Allied Trades Council and similar bodies existing in the Province of British Columbia shall be entitled to membership in the Federation upon the approval of the Executive Board.

Representation

Section 3. Each organization affiliated with the Federation shall be entitled to representation on the following basis:

Each labor union shall be entitled to one delegate for the first hundred members or less, and one delegate for each additional hundred members or major fraction thereof.

Central Labor Bodies, Districts Boards, Building Trades Councils, Allied Councils and similar bodies shall be entitled to two delegates each. **Delegates from Central Bodies must be members of Unions affiliated with the Federation.**

No proxies shall be allowed.

Delegates shall receive their credentials from their local unions in duplicate and send one copy to the Secretary of the Federation at least two weeks previous to the date of the convention and deliver the other to the Committee on credentials.

No credential shall be considered valid bearing more than name of delegate and alternate. Provided that if alternative presents credentials and is seated he shall be the only recognized representative throughout the sessions of the convention.

Article II

Section 1. Any Union or Central Body that has not been previously affiliated may become affiliated by paying six months' dues for the term they make application.

Section 2. Any organization not paying its per capita tax on or before the 15th day of the second month of each term shall be notified of the fact by the Secretary. In case of no response, notice shall be sent to the nearest officer of the Federation or to the Central Body in that locality. If, at the end of six months, it is still in arrears it shall be suspended from membership if valid reasons are not shown why the dues have not been paid, the Executive Board to be the judge.

Section 3. Any Central Body or Union that becomes suspended from membership for non-payment of per capita tax may be reinstated by payment of arrears not to exceed one year.

Article III

This organization shall meet in annual convention in such place as the convention may determine. The time of the meeting to be decided by the Executive.

Article IV—Delegates

The Secretary shall prepare a preliminary list of delegates where no contest is filed from duplicates in his possession, and such delegates so returned shall have power to transact business until the report of the Credentials Committee is received and adopted.

Article V—Presiding Officer

At the opening of the convention, the President of the Federation shall take the chair and preside at the sessions of the convention.

Article VI—Committees

The following committees, to consist of not less than five members shall be appointed by the Executive Board: "Credentials," "Constitution, Rules and Order of Business," "Officers' Reports," "Resolutions," "Audit and Grievances" and "Ways and Means."

Article VII—Officers—Term—How Elected

The officers of the Federation shall consist of a President, eight Vice-Presidents, and Secretary-Treasurer. These officers shall constitute the Executive Committee. The term of the offices of this organization shall be for one year or until their successors are installed in office, and their duties shall begin on the day of election—elections to be held at each annual convention. The Vice-Presidents shall be elected in the following manner: Two to be elected from Vancouver Island, two from Vancouver City, one from New Westminster, one from Prince Rupert, and two from the Interior. Any amendment to this article shall not be subject to a referendum of the membership at large.

Article VIII—Books and Accounts

All books and financial accounts shall at all times be open to the inspection of the President or members of the Executive Committee.

Article IX—Ex-Officers

Section 1.—It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all general conventions; to exercise supervision in the Federation throughout its jurisdiction; to sign all official documents; to travel with the consent of the Executive Board wherever required in the interests of the Federation; to submit to the Secretary at the end of each month an itemized account of all monies, travelling and incidental, expended by him in the interests of the Federation; and he shall report his acts and doings at the Annual Convention. The President, if not a delegate, shall have a casting vote in case of a tie, but shall not vote at other times. He shall receive for his services \$5 per day for the time actually devoted to the Federation, and his actual expenses while so employed.

In case of his office becoming vacant the Executive shall elect one of its members as his successor. He shall be chairman of all the meetings of the Executive and Legislative Committee, having power to convene in special session in case of emergency, or when requested to do so on a written request of a majority of its members. He shall have a voice in the deliberations of the Committee, but no vote except in case of a tie.

Article X—Luties of Officers—President

Section 1.—The President and Secretary-Treasurer shall be members of the succeeding convention in case they are not delegates, but without vote, and shall

not be eligible for re-election unless they are delegates, and if such officers are not delegates their expenses to convention shall be borne by this Federation.

Secretary-Treasurer

Section 2.—The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the convention, and on its closing prepare and have printed a report which shall contain a record of the business transacted. He shall collect and receive all moneys due and payable to the Federation, giving his official receipt for same, and depositing all moneys in some chartered bank in the name of the British Columbia Federation of Labor. He shall arrange with the bank to have a certified statement of the Federation's account forwarded to the President at intervals not exceeding one month. He shall prepare and submit an annual report showing receipts and expenses and deliver his books, accounts, receipts, etc., to the Committee on Audit at each annual convention.

He shall, together with the President, sign all cheques authorized by the Executive; and conduct the correspondence pertaining to his office. He shall be the custodian of the documents and other property of the Federation. He shall notify all affiliated bodies not less than thirty days before date of annual convention. He shall, upon vacating his office, deliver to the Federation all moneys, books, papers or other property in his possession and belonging to the Federation. He shall receive for his services such remuneration as the annual convention may decide upon.

Article XI—Legislative Committee

It shall be the duty of the Executive and the Legislative Committee to act for this Federation when the same is not in session. And that so far as its means will permit, it shall discharge the following duties: It shall put into proper form all unfinished bills approved by the Federation and procure discussion of all bills before various labor organizations of the province. It shall see that all legislative measures and resolutions approved by the Provincial Federation are presented to each political provincial convention, held within the province, for approval or disapproval of such convention. And the action of such convention shall be reported to the unions of the province. The committee shall also cause to be presented to each nominee of each party, who, upon election, would have a vote upon the passage of any of the bills approved by the Federation. The bills shall also be presented to the nominees of the different political parties for their approval or disapproval. The approval to be signified in every case by a promise, clear and explicit, in writing, to support the bills as presented by the nominees.

Article XII—Revenue

The revenue of the Federation shall be derived as follows: A per capita tax of two cents per member per month from all local unions; from Central Bodies, District Boards, Building Trades Councils, Allied Trades Councils and similar bodies, One Dollar per month. All moneys shall be payable in advance to the Secretary of the Federation in two half-yearly instalments due and payable in January and July of each year.

Article XIII—Remuneration

The remuneration for loss of time by members of the Executive Committee, or speakers engaged by them, shall be \$5 per day and actual expenses.

Article XIV—Rules

The Executive Committee shall have power to make rules to govern all matters not in conflict with this Constitution, and a majority shall constitute a quorum.

Article XV—Petition and Referendum

The Executive Committee shall be required when petitioned by at least seven unions, to submit to a referendum vote any proposition dealing with the affairs of the Provincial Federation.

Recall of Officers.—Any organization affiliated with the Federation, shall have the right to call for a referendum vote, for the recall of any officer; providing, that they obtain the endorsement of twenty-five per cent. of the affiliated organizations.

They shall be required to give full information, as to the reasons for such recall to the Secretary-treasurer of the Federation, who shall issue same to the

membership at the time the referendum is submitted along with the defense of the officer whose recall is asked for.

Organizations demanding a referendum to recall any officer, should they fail in securing the recall of any officer, will be required to bear the expense of the referendum.

Article XVI—Quorum

A convention quorum shall consist of fifty per cent of the accredited delegates.

Article XVII

The Executive Committee shall have the power, by a majority vote, to suspend any officer or member of the committee for good cause shown. Provided, they first shall give such officer or member due and proper notice and hearing, and they shall, by resolution, provide the manner of such hearing. The committee shall immediately after such suspension, report to the various local unions affiliated with the Federation all the proceedings had in such hearing, and shall submit to such locals for a referendum vote the question whether the action of the committee shall be sustained or not. If the vote sustains their action, then Executive Committee shall declare the suspended officers or member's seat vacant. If said vote fails to sustain their action, then the officer or member shall be entitled to his seat. In case of vacancy on the committee by resignation, death or otherwise, the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of said committee, and the member so appointed shall hold his seat as provided by the Constitution.

All resignations shall be handed to the Secretary, who shall notify the President of same, and in case of death the local to which the deceased officer belongs shall notify the President of the same. The President, upon receiving notice of the death or resignation of a member of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a member to fill such vacancy, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

Article XVIII—Rules of Order

Roberts' Rules of Order shall be the authority of this organization unless otherwise provided for in this Constitution and Bylaws.

Amendments to the Constitution shall be first acted upon by the Federation in convention assembled. All amendments adopted by the convention unless otherwise provided for, shall within thirty days be referred to the membership at large, and a majority of those voting shall be necessary to adoption, the returns to be in the hands of the Secretary within sixty days subsequent to adjournment of the convention. All amendments adopted shall take effect from date.

Order of Business

1. Call to Order.
2. Committee on Credentials.
3. Roll Call.
4. Appointments of Committees.
5. Communications.
6. Reports of Officers.
7. Introduction of Resolutions.
8. Reports of Committees.
9. Unfinished Business.
10. Election of Officers.
11. Place of Next Convention.
12. New Business and Good and Welfare.



